**WEDNESDAY MARCH 7, 2012** Volume XXII, Issue No. 56

# saipan tribune.com

### **OPINION METER**

#### This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, rate you're level of satisfaction in how the local police solves crimes.

Let your voice be heard! www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

### INSIDE

#### **NATION**



The U.S. economy is improving faster than economists had expected. ➤ PAGE 14

### WORLD



An attempt by Vladimir Putin's foes to protest his election victory ends with police breaking them up.

**➤ PAGE 16** 

### **LIFE & STYLE**



Tate gallery buys Ai Weiwei's 8 million porcelain sunflower seeds.

### ➤ PAGE 21

# CUC disconnects 6 public schools

### **»Board of Education** suspends classes today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

hock and dismay reverberated across much of Saipan and the rest of the CNMI yesterday in the wake of the Public School System's decision to suspend classes today after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cut off power to the administrative offices of at least six public schools that have not paid their bills.



### ...and one area of the hospital so far

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com

The lone public hospital on Saipan was not spared, with a portion of the Commonwealth

Health Center losing its power yesterday as part of a spate of disconnections implemented by the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp. for delinquent customers

It was not immediately known which part of the hospital lost its power supply but CUC chief financial administrative officer Charles Warren assured that it was not a criti-

Besides the hospital, the administrative offices of six public schools and the Public

CUC has \$9M in receivables Non-critical CHC areas to be disconnected today

> School System central offices were also disconnected yesterday afternoon due to unpaid bills. Today, more public schools and more areas in the

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

### State of emergency declared for CHC

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew is seen disconnecting the power grid of the Public School System central offices in Susupe around 4pm yesterday.

Other photo shows Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada pleading with a

CUC staff not to disconnect the board office where an emergency closed-door meeting was being held on the unexpected shutdown of power in many schools.

The board office was later given up to 5:30pm yesterday to finish the meeting.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency yesterday, paving the way for the CNMI and the Commonwealth Health-

- CUC has \$9M in receivables
- Non-critical CHC areas to be disconnected today

care Corp. to immediately strike a multi-million dollar loan agreement with the Marianas Public Land Trust so that doctors. nurses, other employees, hospital vendors, and other outstand-

See STATE on Page 4

### And the blame game begins

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Lawmakers' reactions were swift when power services to public schools and the hospital were cut

off because of outstanding bills, but they were not fast enough to help prevent the utility disconnections in the first place when they failed to agree on the fate of Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan)

\$11.58-million line of credit bill. Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), however, is taking a

different approach. She instead told Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae that CUC

See BLAME on Page 4

Vehicle sales up 14 percent in February. PAGE 2 Romero family hopes ID of 'person of interest' leads to arrest. PAGE 3

### Local

### IN THE SPIRIT **OF GIVING**

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. general manager Shirley Sablan, third left, presents a \$1,000 check donation to Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances T. Demapan, second right, in a brief ceremony at the second floor of Joeten Susupe last Friday. Also in photo are, from left, Joeten market manager Darlene Macaranas, marketing manager/buyer Frannie T. Demapan, and Joeten Enterprise Inc. board of director Priscilla Tenorio.











WHERE:

SAIPAN: CAROLINIAN UTT,

GARAPAN

ROTA REPUBLICAN ROTA:

PARTY HEADQUARTERS, TETETO BEACH

Tinian: Tinian Youth Center,

SAN JOSE VILLAGE

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> Registration for Republican Party membership ongoing. Visit registration table at site to be eligible to vote in caucus.

> > Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association.



# Vehicle sales up 14 pct. in Feb.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Automotive dealers followed on their 43 percent spike in sales in January with a 14-percent sales increase in February.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association said yesterday it sold 48 new cars, vans, trucks and sports utility vehicles in February, a 14-percent increase from the 42 units they sold during the same month last year.

CADA is hoping that the sales growth will continue for the rest of the year.

January and February sales posted a 29-percent increase from last year during the same period or from 26 to 31.

Microl Corp., the authorized distributor of Toyota and Chevrolet, sold 19 new vehicles in February, the same number it sold in February 2011.

Joeten Motors saw a 50-percent spike in February sales from 10 last year to 15 this year. Joeten Motors is the authorized distributor of Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia.

Triple "J" Motors, the authorized dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazincrease in February, or from 13 last year to 14 this year.

February were Toyota Yaris and Hyundai Tucson with four sold since January.

Of the 48 new vehicles sold last month, 18 were cars, another 18 were SUVs, seven were vans and five were trucks.

Among cars, Toyota Yaris sold the most with four, followed by Hyundai Elantra with three. Also sold were two units each of Hyundai Accent, Mazda3, Toyota Camry, and Toyota Corolla. CADA also sold one unit each of Ford Mustang, Hyundai Genesis Cp, and Hyundai Veloster.

Hyundai Tucson led the SUV sales with four units sold, followed by Kia Sportage and Toyota RAV4 with three sold units each, and Toyota Highlander with two. Also sold were one unit each of Ford Escape, Ford Explorer, Nissan Murano, Nissan Rogue, Nissan Xterra, and Toyota 4 Runner.

Toyota Sienna sold the most number of vans in February with three, followed by Ford E-Van with two. CADA sold one each of Mazda5 and Nissan Quest.

Among trucks, Toyota Tacoma sold two in February. Other trucks sold were one each of da, posted an 8-percent sales Ford E/F-Series, Ford Ranger, and Nissan Frontier.

CADA also sold 19 used or The most saleable vehicles in secondhand vehicles in February, bringing to 43 the total sold

### Bank of Guam to award five \$2K scholarships and paid internship

### >> March 15 deadline nears

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has been awarded \$5,000 in grants from the ACCEL/Exchange Network, which consists of Fiserv network members. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, Bank of Guam will match the award so that a total of \$10,000 in scholarships will be awarded by June 2012. Each scholarship will be for \$2,000 awarded to five recipients, all graduating high school seniors. The five recipients will also be eligible for a summer or winter paid internship with Bank of Guam.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

Be U.S. citizens who are residents of the Micronesian region;

Be high school seniors who are graduating in 2012 from an accredited high school with a 3.5 grade point average (copies of transcripts and SAT/ACT scores required);

Submit an original, numbered application due March 15, 2012 to Bank of Guam;

Submit three letters of recommendation, one from a nonacademic source;

Submit answers to four essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any U.S. accredited college or university, and would be earmarked to those students pursuing degrees in business, finance, accounting, economics or related majors (can be multi-disciplinary). Ten semifinalists will be selected by April 30 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to an accredited four-year college.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam board chair, president, and chief executive officer, stated, "In celebration of our 40 years of serving our communities, we are delighted to offer graduating high school seniors an opportunity to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Given Bank of Guam's longstanding service to higher education for its communities, we are proud to continue this commitment."

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna branch lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted. (BOG)

### Romero family hopes ID of 'person of interest' leads to arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

With the investigators' disclosure that a "person of interest" has been identified in the case, family members of slain bartender Emerita "Emie" Romero are hoping that the killer will soon be arrested.

Estrellita "Lhet" Relata told Saipan Tribune in an email that they are praying that test results of evidence will come out fast so that someone will be held accountable for her sister's killing before the 40th day since Romero's death comes.

ing to obtain justice for the murder of their sister.

She thanked the local police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, their friends, and to all who expressed condolences and offered prayers.

"Please continue to pray for my sister's soul and for justice," Relata said.

Relata and her brother, Eduardo Relata, still want to return to Saipan to continue their work despite being discouraged by parents and family members not to return because of what happened.

Estrellita and Eduardo Re-

lata have no definite schedule for their return as they are still waiting for the release of their advance parole.

The Relatas accompanied Romero's body aboard Delta Air Lines flight via Japan last Feb. 18.

Last Feb. 24, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas disclosed that DPS and the FBI are currently investigating activities and events associated with this "person of interest."

Romero was last seen alive boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 near her residence in Garapan. FBI agents found her body two days later during a search in the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.



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### OAG wants ex-convict's probation revoked

The Office of the Attorney General wants to revoke the probation and suspended sentence of an ex-convict who was arrested in January for possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

The Office of Adult Probation has determined that Joseph A. Crisostimo violated his probation conditions.

His arraignment revocation hearing will be held on March 13. at 9am.

Crisostimo served five years of a 10-year prison sentence for burglarizing Marianas CableVision in Susupe in 2006. His brother, Calistro, and William Jerome T. Deleon Guerrero, were also convicted and served time. The three stole a safe box containing \$34,319.25 in cash, checks, and credit card payments.

If Crisostimo is found in violation of his probation, he can be sentenced to a maximum of five years—the remaining part of his sentenced that was suspended.

As part of his original sentence, Crisostimo was supposed to pay a \$25 court assessment fee within 30 days of his release from custody, he is not supposed

The Office of the Attorney General

has filed charges against a 55-year-

old man who was allegedly found in possession of two endangered

Marianas fruit bats on Rota.

holic beverages during his probation; and he is supposed to obey all CNMI and federal laws.

Probation officer Jose P Mafnas said that Crisostimo failed to pay the court assessment fee. Also, Crisostimo was arrested on Jan. 11, 2012, for a drug related charge.

"Hence, he had violated his condition of probation that he shall not possess nor consume alcohol or other intoxicating substances during his entire term of probation," the probation officer said.

Mafnas said that Crisostimo also failed to obey all laws after being arrested on a drug related charge.

On Feb. 29, Superior Court associate judge Joseph Camacho reduced Crisostimo's \$31,000 cash bail to \$6,000 cash for his arrest on charges of possession of methamphetamine or "ice." The 38-year-old Crisostimo, however, failed to post bail.

The Office of the Attorney General filed an amended information, charging Crisostimo with illegal possession of controlled substance, and criminal to possess or consume any alco- contempt. (Ferdie de la Torre)

# INTRODUCING THE ALLAN 5KYACTI TECHNOLOGY

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Man charged with alleged

possession of 2 fruit bats

Inos, of San Antonio, Rota, was ordered to appear and answer the charges in the Superior Court on Saipan on March 12. If he fails to do so, he will be arrested.

According to chief prosecutor Peter Prestley in the charging document, on Jan. 15, 2012, on Rota, Inos knowingly and willingly violated the law by possessing Marianas fruit bats (Pteropus mariannus), locally known as fanihi.

The offense is punishable by imprisonment of not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. No other

details were provided in the charging information. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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### CUC

From Page 1

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada confirmed that the administrative offices of the William S. Reyes, San Antonio, Oleai, Koblerville, and Tanapag elementary schools as well as Hopwood Junior High School were cut off from the CUC power grid as soon as their students were dismissed at 2pm.

"The situation is very disappointing, very unthinkable that anybody would do such a thing to shut power to the mainline of PSS, which is responsible for the education of 11,000 kids—kids who are winning in regional, national events, and will compete and bear the name of the CNMI in national competitions. This is very unbecoming, very troublesome, and disappointing," she told Saipan Tribune.

The power disconnection alarmed teachers, students, and parents alike who were all taken aback at the seeming suddenness of CUC's decision. Text messages were flying back and forth across much of the island yesterday to relay the news. Facebook was atwitter with the news and the situation was compounded by reports that CUC also cut power to some sections of the local hospital, also for failing to pay its bills.

Upon receiving the news, Ada immediately rounded up school principals and administrators for an emergency meeting at the Board of Education office inside the Marianas High School compound in Susupe.

After almost two hours of talks, which also saw the attendance of Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan via videoconference from Washington, D.C., Ada gave the order to shut down classes today so that school administrators and managers could get together and create a standard operating policy for emergency situations such as yesterday's.

The shutdown does not affect schools on Rota and Tinian and administrative personnel in the PSS central offices.

### 'Troublesome'

Power was cut off at the central offices around 4pm. Outside the education board's office, Ada was seen pleading with a CUC line crew to give the board more time to finish the emergency

meeting and teleconference. In the end, CUC gave the BOE office up to 5:30pm to finish the meeting and the power was cut off soon after that.

Ada told Saipan Tribune that the PSS central office will be business as usual today as employees have been asked to work manually and use their charged laptops to continue their work.

She said classes in all Saipan schools will resume Thursday, with or without power at their administrative offices. Ada said that principals will finalize a "contingency plan" that will allow schools to carry on in times when power is off. She hinted at plans of possibly conducting classes under the shade of trees, for example.

She explained that without the administrative offices, schools cannot operate because everything is sourced from the main office—supplies, servers, telephones, printers, and other materials.

Ada described yesterday as a "very disappointing and troublesome" situation that could have been averted if PSS had received a notice of disconnection or a courtesy call from CUC.

"We were caught off guard. We never received a discon-

nection notice. Today is totally a surprise for all of us. We [the BOE] just had a meeting last Thursday discussing about CUC and we try in good faith to pay CUC. If anything was to happen today, we could have discussed that in last week's meeting. Nothing has been discussed because we're not aware [of any disconnection plans]...not even the management and the board level," said Ada.

She tried to call Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and some CUC officials, to no avail. Ada was informed that these officials were all in separate meetings yesterday.

When asked how PSS intends to settle its delinquent accounts with CUC, Ada pointed out the need for the central government to pay what is owed PSS—about \$11 million in unremitted maintenance-of-effort funds for 2010 and 2011 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Education.

"We would like the administration to give us the money it owes us so we can pay our CUC bill. We need to sit down with the governor and the lieutenant governor [and go back] to the drawing board and plan for an MOA or MOU so we can receive a definite plan on how much they plan to pay us," Ada said.

### \$4.1M unpaid obligation

CUC's chief financial and administrative officer, Charles Warren, disclosed yesterday that PSS owes CUC \$4.134 million as of Feb. 29, representing arrears of about 16 months.

Although PSS has been making monthly payments, Warren described these amounts as "small payments."

Contrary to Ada's claims, Warren said that PSS-like other CUC customers—was issued a proper disconnection notice and the commissioner, he claimed, was even informed by CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae in a personal email about the disconnection efforts of CUC.

"That's is not true. We issue the same disconnection notices that all customers receive. In addition, our executive director also sent a personal email to the commissioner of education last week informing her that CUC will begin disconnections today," said Warren

He described CUC's decision as "difficult but necessary" to

the critical operation of the utilities firm, which is facing its own emergency needs.

"This is a very difficult decision for CUC. We try to minimize the impact on the public and we're actually surprised and disappointed that PSS decided to shut down classes [today]. We hope that they can work their financial issues and start paying their utility bills like our other customers," Warren said.

In a separate interview, Malae emphasized that the areas disconnected yesterday did not include classrooms.

"We will not disconnect any critical loads including classrooms—just administrative offices or other support offices, but not the classrooms. In addition, water will not be disconnected at all," he said.

Malae disclosed that PSS' old accounts are paid under an agreement brokered between the CNMI government, PSS, and CUC.

The central government, he said, has been making payments on one part and PSS has been paying the other. However, no payments have been made for fiscal year 2012 invoices. "The total owed to CUC exceeds \$4 million and is growing," he added.

### HOSPITAL

From Page 1

hospital are expected to be cut off from the grid as well.

"We will continue the disconnection [today] on these agencies, unless payments are made to CUC," Warren said.

He said that as of 6pm Tuesday, only one area of the hospital had been disconnected but CUC's crew will continue their efforts today. He said they have identified more than two dozen non-critical areas in the public hospital that may also lose their power.

According to Warren, CUC had asked both PSS and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for a list of their non-critical departments but only the corporation submitted one. "We never did receive a list from PSS and only CHC provided us the list of its non-critical areas which we are disconnecting now."

### **Receivables**

Warren bared that CUC currently

has \$9 million in receivables from three of its biggest customers on Saipan. As of Feb. 29, CUC has \$9,035,415.43 receivables from the central government, the Public School System, and the healthcare corporation.

PSS owes the biggest amount, \$4,134,424.48, covering about 16 months of unpaid bills. It is followed by the central government with \$2,865,772.96, and CHC, which owes \$2,035,217.99

Of the three, only the central government was spared from being disconnected from the power grid yesterday. CUC officials said that it is making payments and adhering to the terms of a memorandum of agreement.

Warren disclosed that the central government makes regular weekly payments of \$250,000 to CUC and usually includes \$50,000 extra for the old balance for public schools.

The Fitial administration earlier agreed to shoulder \$1.7 million of the \$3 million that PSS owes CUC to offset unremitted allotments for

PSS in previous fiscal years.

Although a formal agreement between the parties has yet to be signed, Warren said the central government is already paying its \$1.7 million share bit by bit.

"The central government is fine and will not be disconnected because it is paying regularly-\$250,000 weekly and usually include the \$50,000 extra for PSS," he said.

### No payments

Since the corporation took over

the hospital's operation in October 2011, nothing has been paid to CUC, Warren said. Attempts of CUC to meet with corporation officials also failed, according to him.

"We're reaching a critical point and we're having inability to fund our operation now," he said, describing the decision to disconnect non-critical departments of both CHC and PSS as a difficult situation, but necessary for the survival of the utilities corporation.

### STATE

From Page 1

ing obligations including power and water services will be paid, among other things.

The governor's emergency declaration comes in the midst of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s decision to cut power to some CHC units and public schools because of outstanding utility bills.

"A state of emergency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is declared due to imminent threat of the disruption of critical medical services

in the Commonwealth and the danger that such a condition poses to the public because of the great increase in otherwise preventable deaths that would result," Fitial said in his twopage Executive Order 2012-02.

This is the third time for CHC to be placed under a state of emergency. The first one was in 2009 and the second one was in 2011.

Some Senate and House members blamed each other for the power disconnections in some CHC units and the Public School System.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph

Torres (R-Saipan) said that, had the House swiftly passed Senate-amended bills on an \$11.58 million line of credit for CHC and a \$5 million Medicaid state share, \$3.5 million should have been made available to CUC for payment of PSS's outstanding utility bills and \$1.5 million in CHC bills.

"Those two bills could have helped everyone—CHC, CUC, PSS, and the central government," Manglona told Saipan Tribune.

Senators said Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos had recommended to the Senate, as well as to MPLT and CHC, that the \$11.58 million loan bill include payments to CUC because it was already on the verge of disconnecting power to PSS and CHC at the time. Inos said the line of credit bill will make readily available some \$6 million to CHC and some \$5 million to CUC.

Some House members, however, blame the Senate for not acting on the original loan bill that would have helped CHC right away, and the situation wouldn't have gotten worse for both CHC and PSS.

CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta reiterated yesterday that he still supports the House's original \$11.58 million line of credit bill rather than the Senate version.

"First of all, I'd like to thank the governor for taking swift action," Babauta said. "This emergency declaration will help alleviate the financial situation we're facing. We're operating from \$38 million to zero. I haven't seen the \$5 million. We're pretty much relying on our collection. This [declaration] is going to be very helpful in our quest to have a line of credit agreement with MPLT. CHC requested \$10 million line of credit and \$1.58 million for our electronic health system."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the governor decided to execute the order "when it became increasingly clear that the Senate refused to reconsider its actions on the CHC line of credit bill."

"The governor had hoped that the upper house would put the health and welfare of people first, but when it became clear that the Senate would not agree, Governor Fitial was forced to declare a state of emergency to ensure that all in-patients, out-patients, and members of the community at large continue to have access to medical care," Demapan said.

### BLAME

From Page 1

should have considered disconnecting power first to the Legislature and the Office of the Governor before cutting off power

to public schools. "I hope you will find it within your authority to send your hardworking staff back and reconnect the power to the schools immediately so that out students may return to their normal schedule," Maratita told Malae.

Maratita and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) separately expressed their disappointment with CUC

"The disconnection of the power to the schools affected could have been averted had you honored the Memorandum of Agreement in place with the Public School System. Your action is an indication of your arrogance, recklessness, and is irresponsible. It further demonstrates your management style. You should have considered other means to resolve this problem such as disconnecting the Legislature and the Governor's Office first," Maratita said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said two weeks have passed since the Senate amended and passed an \$11.58

million line of credit bill that would have given the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. some \$6 million and CUC a total of \$5 million, but the House is not taking action on it.

Manglona said the Senateamended bill would have prevented CUC from cutting power to CHC and PSS, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial need not have declared a state of emergency.

The Fitial administration and some House members blamed the Senate, however, for amending the House bill, the provisions of which were long agreed upon by CHC and the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Senators, meanwhile, passed

the buck to House members for disconnection to CHC and PSS sitting on the bill.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) has yet to issue a formal notice of a House session to act on the bill—whether to reject the Senate-substituted bills and call for a conference committee, or accept the bill and send it to the governor for action.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) said that, had the Senate acted swiftly on the House bill in January or early February, the crisis at CHC wouldn't have gotten worse.

Manglona said that Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos had made the Senate aware as early as two weeks ago about the possible utility

because of outstanding utility debts.

He said this was the reason why the Senate amended the bill to give \$3.5 million to CUC for PSS' outstanding utility bills and another \$1.5 million to CUC for CHC's outstanding utility debts. The Senate version would give CHC some \$6 million line of credit, plus \$1.58 million for its electronic health system.

"I respectfully ask the House to act on the bill. It's unfortunate that school children are the ones made to suffer," Manglona said.

He said if the House chooses to reject the Senate-amended bill, the Senate is willing to go into a conference committee and hash out their differences and immediately help CHC, CUC and PSS.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Health Committee, also called on the House to consider the Senate version of bill that helps not only CHC but also PSS and CUC.

"Is the bill important to them? If so, why have they not acted on the Senate-amended bill? Whether they reject it or approve it, they should have done something two weeks ago. Up to now we haven't heard of any scheduled House session, while the Senate stands ready to hold a session if need be," he said.

### Tinian team wins regional JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl

### >> Four students to advance to DC for national contest



Members of the Tinian Junior and Senior High School team who won first place in the regional Junior Leadership Academic Bowl competition pose with their principals and mentors. From left are CSM Richard Basa, Sgt. Roger Thompson, team captain Marquina Hofschneider, Veronica Borja, Josue Cruz, Samantha Wedding, Noelani Santos, and school principal Julian Hofschneider.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Tinian Junior and Senior High School JROTC team won first place in the regional Junior Leadership and Academic Bowl, an online competition conducted simultaneously among member schools in the 8th Brigade.

The five-member group earned the slot to compete in the national event to be held in Washington, D.C. where they will face off with 39 other teams in the JLAB Championship slated from June 22 to 26.

The champion squad is composed of team captain Marquina M. Hofschneider, Veronica Borja, Samantha Wedding, Josue Cruz, and Noelanie Santos who serves as an alternate.

Saipan Tribune learned that the group took the online competition on Feb. 8 together with other schools in the 8th Brigade, which includes schools from Washington, Arkansas, Montana, California, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Korea, Japan, Guam, and the CNMI.

The Tinian cadets emerged as one of the four first place winners in the regional event, along with San Diego High School and Oaks Hill High School teams, both in California, and Seoul American High School in Korea. All four teams will represent the 8th Brigade in the national event for both leadership and academic categories.

Hofschneider, a first-timer to the regional and national event, is looking forward to the nationals. The 16-year-old cadet admits that their win in the regional contest was unexpected.

"When I found out that we won, I cried...because I never expected it. It feels great and I am now excited to be in the national for this team and for our school. Because we performed well in the regional, I think we can also make it in the championship because we made it this far. We will do our best," she said.

Right now, the group is just awaiting more information from the national level about the presentation and project that the team is expected to do.

Seventeen-year-old Veronica winning cadets.

Borja, a junior cadet and also a first-timer to the competition, vowed to do her best at the nationals, saying she expects to learn a lot from the experience.

Tinian Junior and High School principal Julian Hofschneider said that this is the second time for Tinian students to participate in the national competition. The first time was in June 2008 when the school team won in the academic category of the regionals. This year, the group made it under the Leadership category of the JLAB.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of our students. The long after-school and weekend meetings really paid off. I guess the real message is, with hard work, perseverance, and dedication, there is always a great pay off, and for this team, it is the national competition in George Mason University in June," Hofschneider said.

Hofschneider also commended the contributions of Tinian Jr. and High School JROTC mentors Richard Basa and Roger Thompson for the success of the

### Party to celebrate Covenant Day, reaffirm membership

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the Covenant Party will be celebrating Covenant Day on March 24, the 36th year when President Gerald Ford signed a joint congressional resolution approving a mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

Covenant Day, as it is known, is an observed CNMI holiday, which this year falls on a Saturday.

"We are celebrating Covenant Day and part of our celebration is to essentially meet with partymates and talk about...the roles that we will

play in the upcoming midterm including Inos and at least three nization, reaffirmation, confirmation of candidates and so forth," Inos told Saipan Tri-

Inos, the titular head of the Covenant Party, said they will field candidates for the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

"Party leaders are meeting actively to consider the slate,' he added.

The 11-year-old Covenant Party was founded by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in 2001. In January 2011, Fitial went back to his old party, the Republican Party, and is now its chairman again.

Many of the Covenant Party members followed Fitial to the Republican Party, but others—

elections. Essentially reorga- House members-stayed with the Covenant Party.

> Another Covenant Party member said yesterday that the venue for the Covenant Day gathering has yet to be finalized.

> President Ford signed on March 24, 1976, the "Covenant" that the U.S. Congress approved.

> A year later, the CNMI government adopted its own Constitution, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978.

> The "Covenant" was fully implemented on Nov. 3, 1986, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 5564, which conferred U.S. citizenship on legally qualified CNMI residents.



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### **Statewide Independent Living Council** "Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 95950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536 TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 08, 2012 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency from 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### <u>AGENDA</u>

- I. **Roll Call**
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- Review and adoption of December 06, 2011 Minutes III.
- IV. Reports
  - **CIL Director**
  - **OVR** Director
  - Chairman
- **Old Business** V.
  - SPIL Public Forums on Saipan, Rota & Tinian
  - SILC By-Laws/Membership Composition
  - Accessible Transportation Issues
- VI. **New Business** 
  - SILC Resource Plan
  - Recommendation for CIL activities
- VII. **Consumer Forum**
- VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro SILC Chairperson

> Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

# Learning Garden initiative expands roots to Oleai school

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students of Oleai Elementary School are following in the "green" footsteps of their counterparts at Dandan Elementary School after being introduced to the Learning Garden initiative of Tan Holdings yesterday.

Close to 50 students from the first grade class of Ernestina Agulto and third grade class of Roxie Lamar were all raring to get their hands dirty by planting seeds and saplings of eggplants, corn, and tomatoes in three agricultural plots.

Tan Holdings' Learning Garden initiative is patterned after school learning gardens in the U.S. where public and private organizations partner with schools and communities to create gardens that would teach students how grow their own crops, nurture healthy lifestyles, and take an active part in nature conservation and environmental stewardship.

Through the Learning Garden, students are given the opportunity to care for their own gardens and, at the same time, develop a sense of responsibility by keeping the crops alive, foster social interaction skills by working together, and learn patience by awaiting the growth of their crops.

Learning Garden was first launched at Dandan Elementary School on Feb. 15 and is made possible with the support of the Public School System, the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Yesterday's event was attended by some Tan Holdings executives wearing green shirts and led by corporate consultant David M. Sablan, who began the program by sharing with the students how his passion for farming was cultivated at a young age.

Sablan, who went to a Japanese school before and during the war, recounted how he learned to use the abacus and speak and read the Japanese language in the morning. When afternoon came, the students were taught about farming by growing all kinds of vegetables. Sablan said he thought they were being punished. He later realized that learning a great deal about farming wasn't punishment but an advantage for them so they can grow crops, which they can harvest to put food on



Oleai Elementary School students are all smiles as they join Tan Holdings executives, Public School System officials, and Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service staff for a group photo after successfully planting seeds and saplings of eggplants, corn, and tomatoes for the Learning Garden initiative yesterday.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

· D BNB D

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the **Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Friday, March 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

PRELIMARY MATTERS Call to Order Roll Call c. Adoption of Age
PUBLIC COMMENTS
GARAPAN ANNEX RFP
EXECUTIVE SESSION
OTHER MATTERS
ADJOURNMENT V. VI.

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to

**Notice of Zoning Board Meeting** The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

Adoption of Agenda Adoption of February 15, 2012 minutes

MARCIE M. TOMOKANE Chairwoman of the Board

their tables.

"This island needs good farmers," Sablan said. "Farming is one way to help our economy in the CNMI."

Sablan urged the students to start looking at farming as a career option by growing vegetables in their school garden or in their own backyards, saying that planting is easy on the islands because of the fertile soil.

Sablan, with the assistance of NMC-CREES staff, demonstrated the proper way of planting the seeds and saplings.

Nine-year-old Kinna Palacios, who planted a corn seed

yesterday, said this was her first time to plant something and it was "very easy."

"If I got the time, I'll look after it and watch it grow," she

Jerome Valate, 8, described his experience as "fun."

"I'll water them, make sure it has enough sunlight so it will grow," said Valate, adding that he will encourage his parents to plant vegetables at home.

Six-year-old Jurosy Warakai said he'll make sure that his other classmates would also look after their garden.

Felix Kapwich, 7, said his

experience sowing an eggplant made him realize something. "I want to be a farmer and plant other kinds of vegetables."

School principal Jack Sablan said the initiative will teach students the proper way to raise plants. "They were all excited and they cannot wait for the plants to grow. I'm excited for them because this is something they can apply at home. We'll make sure that this garden becomes successful," Jack Sablan told Saipan Tribune.

He plans to involve students from other grade levels in the Learning Garden, which he

hopes to expand in the future.

Two of the middle garden plots were crescent-shaped as designed by Tom Pangelinan, a natural resource management student at NMC. He is a member of the Environmental Natural Resource Organization, which collaborates with public schools in maintaining their Learning Gardens.

Acting Education Commissioner Glenn Muna, a former Oleai Elementary School principal, thanked Tan Holdings for their continued partnership with PSS. "This is one project that needs to continue.'

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Enforcement – Notice of Violation #2011-2900**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Enforcement Hearing on Notice of Violation (NOV) # 2011-2900, issued 2/8/12, to Mr. Rommel Ronquillo for an unpermitted activity under section 404(b) and (c) of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, raising roosters within a Village Residential zone. This property is located along Texas Road, Susupe, on lot 056 H 14, behind Marianas High School. Mr. Ronquillo appeals the order of the Acting Zoning Administrator to remove 45 roosters from his home and the associated penalties for failing to correct the violation to the Zoning Board pursuant to section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

Date: March 14, 2012, Wednesday Time: 5:00 pm

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above file may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on this enforcement may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted via email to sitataga@yahoo.com or www.zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to the Zoning Board, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or addressed to "BOARD CHAIRMAN" and delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm on March 13, 2012.

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING Top Shot Playstation**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. John Hosono of Top Shot Playstation is proposing to operate Outdoor Amusement games which would include paintball, archery, shooting range, and bike trails on a 48,000 square meters of vacant land. This proposal will be located in Sadog Tasi, below Capitol Hill, on track #22616 REM. This area is zoned as Rural Zoning District and may be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold road.

March 14, 2012, Wednesday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, March 13, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

**Preliminary Matters** 

Public Hearings)

Conditional Use Application #2011-3009: Mr. John Hosono of Top Shot Playstation is proposing to operate Outdoor Amusement games which would include paintball, archery, shooting range, and bike trails on a 48,000 square meters of vacant land. This proposal will be located in Sadog Tasi, below Capitol Hill, on track #22616 REM. This area is zoned as Rural Zoning District and may be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold road. Enforcement Hearing on Notice of Violation (NOV) # 2011-2900,

Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B.

issued 2/8/12, to Mr. Rommel Ronquillo for an unpermitted activity under section 404(b) and (c) of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008. raising roosters within a Village Residential zone. This property is located along Texas Road, Susupe, on lot 056 H 14, behind Marianas High School. Mr. Ronquillo appeals the order of the Acting Zoning Administrator to remove 45 roosters from his home and the associated penalties for failing to correct the violation to the Zoning Board pursuant to section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of

**Communications/ Reports** 

Old Business.

Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

**New Business** 

Office operations report Executive (Closed) Session.

Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn,

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

# Bridge Capital launches 3rd annual art competition rights Bridge

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com

Bridge Capital, LLC, an international investment banking and asset management company that supports the development of local artists, is inviting young and old artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to take part in the 3rd Annual CNMI Art Competition scheduled next month.

Aimed at promoting and supporting CNMI artists, the annual competition is open to CNMI residents who have been living in the Commonwealth for at least one year. Artists are required to submit their original work for the competition, which has two categories: 2-dimensional like paintings and photographs and 3-dimensional works of art like sculptures, ceramics, and traditional crafts, among others.

All entries must have a "CNMI theme." No computergenerated or digitally enhanced submissions will be accepted. Each artist is allowed to submit a maximum of two entries.

There will be a K-12 competition for students from kindergarten through 12th grades, and an open competition for artists 18 years or older.

Each entry must be accompanied by the artist's name, age, address, and telephone number and submitted to the Bridge Capital office along Micro Beach Road in Garapan.

Deadline for submission is on April 13, with the panel of judges composed of government and business leaders to evaluate the entries from April 16 to 20. Bridge Capital will also purchase selected art pieces at prices to be negotiated with the artists.

Top student entries for K-12 grade levels will receive \$100 while the winning student's teacher will receive \$100 credit

for school supplies at National Office Supply.

For the open competition, winners will receive \$2,500 for Best of Show; \$1,500 first prize; \$1,000 second prize; and \$500 third prize.

Exhibit for competition entries as well as the awarding of prizes will be held during the opening ceremony for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 21.

All winning entries and their bccnmi.com or call 322-2222.

rights become the property of Bridge Capital.

"We encourage all seasoned and aspiring artists to join the competition," said Bridge Capital

For more information, contact Rowena Relado at rowena@bccnmi.com or call 322-2222.

### Hours of operation for courthouses in March

Through the end of March 2012, courthouses on all three islands will be open with full operations except for some days when courthouses will have limited operations or closed down.

On Saipan, local courthouses will have limited operation on March 9 and March 23, 2012.

On days of limited operations, only essential services of the Office of the Clerk of Court, the Office of Adult Probation Services, the Family Court Division, the Marshal Service Division, and Judicial Chambers will be provided. Courts will address certain docket requirements, emergency

and related prescheduled matters. The Administrative Services Unit (cashier), Information Systems Unit, Building & Maintenance Unit, Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Law Revision Commission, and Judiciary Administrative Office will be closed.

The Rota courthouse was closed on March 5, 2012, while the Tinian courthouse will be closed on March 19, 2012, a Monday.

The CNMI Judicial Council has adopted these measures to implement a reduction of personnel work hours and courthouse hours of operation due to the limited financial resources provided to the Judiciary in the government's budget measure for fiscal year 2012.

The council considers its hours of operation on a month-to-month basis to evaluate available financial resources, operations and the provision of judicial services during this period of austerity. The council will meet again on March 14, 2012. The hours of operation for April will be released shortly after the meeting on the CNMI Judiciary web site, http://www.justice.gov.mp/. (CNMI Judiciary)

### Stump, Sablan to speak at Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will conduct its monthly general membership luncheon meeting today, March 7, 2012 at the Pacific Islands Club. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting commences at noon.

Speaking before the SCC membership will be James Stump, CIP project coordinating officer, from the Office of Management and Budget. Stump will offer a CIP grant status review and project report on

numerous CNMI grants awarded the CNMI. These grants provide substantial funds that enter the CNMI economy on a number of project awards.

Also, speaking will be David J. Sablan, ESGR state chair of the Guam-CNMI Committee. Sablan will provide a brief overview of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program he administers.

The general membership luncheon is \$15 for SCC members,

\$20 for SCC guests and non-SCC attendees.

SCC is encouraging its membership and residents alike to be on the watch for those wishing a ride from Charlie Dock to downtown Garapan and tourist sites when the *Queen Mary II* arrives at Charlie Dock on March 15. The *Queen Mary II* carries over 4,000 aboard, and SCC welcomes all visitors to Saipan to shop, eat, and enjoy the island's attractions. (SCC)

# Sick leave donation proposed for PSS workers with life-threatening illnesses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Board of Education member Tanya King wants the creation of a new policy that would allow Public School System employees to receive accrued sick leave donations from co-workers if they need them to seek off-island treatment for life-threatening illnesses.

She disclosed, however, that the proposal has been repeatedly deferred to the committee level pending a fiscal and legal analysis by the board counsel and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan. The proposal has been sitting idle for more than three months now.

King, the board representative from Rota, told *Saipan Tribune* that she endorsed the sick leave donation after learning that several PSS employees with life-threatening illnesses need longer periods of stay for treatment, mostly outside the Commonwealth.

Based on existing board policy, PSS employees are allowed to accrue up to just 120 hours of sick leave—not enough for those who need longer medical treatment such as for cancer.

King's proposed policy will allow employees to donate their accrued sick leave benefits to their co-employees. She's looking at providing up to 120 days accrued sick leave for system personnel. This number, she said, came about after looking at similar policies in different states.

She likened PSS employees to the men and women serving in the National Guard who are entitled to 120 days of accrued sick leave after their tour of duty. "It mirrors what we give to our men and women fighting in the battle field and these people [sick employees] are also fighting battles in their lives," she said.

She pointed out that donating one's accrued sick leave to another employee who badly needs it will not take money away from PSS because the benefit stays within the system's employees.

During last week's board meeting, King appealed to her colleagues to act on her propos-

al with urgency.

"With due respect, this issue has been at FPA [fiscal and personnel committee] level at least in four different meetings and has always been tabled because of some analysis that has not been completed by respective individuals. ...I would say that this has been going on for about three to four months and this has not been addressed," she told colleagues.

King's sentiment was echoed by board member Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who supports the proposal.

Members Lucy Blanco-Maratita and Herman Guerrero asked board chair Marylou S. Ada to defer the matter one last time to the committee for final review and recommendation. Ada instructed both the commissioner and the legal counsel to come up with their respective analyses in two weeks' time.

Sablan said the proposed policy will have a "huge financial impact" on the system but refused to elaborate when pressed by *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting.

TIREMENT FUN D

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R.

Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retire-

ment Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation

Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its

Special meeting Thursday, March 08, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at

the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.



OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Cook SALARY: \$5.05-\$6.00/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years culinary/Chinese cuisine experience required. Formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Steward CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012 SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years in food service

preferred.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Gym & Spa Attendant CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012 SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a

health club or spa preferred.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Administrative Supervisor/ Water Park CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012 SALARY: \$5,05-\$6,00/hr.

March 9, 2012 SALARY: \$5.05-\$6.00/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel outlet operations required. Water Park or Amusement Park management/supervision

experience highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Cashier/Water Park

CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012 SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have strong accounting and money handling skills. Must show strong integrity, honesty and morality.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Kids College Staff/Water Park

CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012 POSITION: Kids College Staff/Water Park
SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Must enjoy and be comfortable with young children.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012 POSITION: Prim/Lifeguard

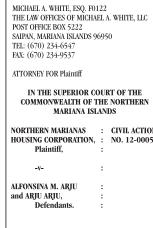
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012 SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred,

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.



### SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated February 10, 2012 by order of the

/s/ Clerk of Cour

### . PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Adoption of Agenda

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. OLD BUSINESS IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Civil Action No. 06-0367

B. Potential Strategies to Preserve the Fund

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Other Related Matters

B. Next MeetingC. Adjournment

SIXTO K. IGISOMAR CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES





### **WINNERS ALL**

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council hands out awards to the students that won in the 2012 Art Contest in a ceremony held Monday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Winning entries are featured in both the Chamorro and Refaluwasch lunar calendars published by the council and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Above, grades 6-8 winners Maria Reyes and Craig Aguon of Hopwood Jr. High School and Kloe Borja of Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School are all smiles for the camera during the presentation.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Above. Grades 9-12 Division winners Hannah Alcordo, Monn Morera, and Haeri Kim-all from Marianas High School-are flanked by MHS teacher Wesley Foster, Department of Land and Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios, and Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council executive director Kitty Simonds

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Right, Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios and Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council executive director Kitty Simonds join Grades K-2 Division winners Karina Dilse, Clerisse Dacumos, and Richard Steele for a group photo. The three students are all from Grace Christian Academy.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Grades 3-5 Division winners first placer Jaden Yamagata-Santos and second placer Mary Jane Domingo hail from Oleai Elementary School.

CLARISSA V. DAVID







### Mar. 7, 2000

#### **CPA** denies discrimination charge

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday brushed off allegations that the agency discriminated an accounts clerk of the seaport who filed a civil suit before the U.S. District Court last week. Mr. Salas said CPA has never discriminated against any of the ports authority's employees, in reaction to the \$1 million discrimination and harassment civil suit lodged by seaport accounts clerk Rudy C. Aguon. Aside from \$1 million representing damages for injury, pain and suffering and emotional distress, Mr. Aguon is demanding payment for medical and incidental expenses, loss of earnings, attorney's fees and litigation costs.

#### **CPA** exceeds debt payment requirement

The level of revenues currently generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its aviation division has started showing signs of improvement, enabling it to comply with the \$20 million airport bond indenture. After several months of falling short to meeting the 125 percent debt coverage ratio requirement, CPA managed to exceed the required debt service coverage by injecting additional revenues from its airport operation during the first month of the year. A report prepared for the CPA Board of Directors disclosed the 125 percent required debt coverage ratio has been exceeded by 212 percent, with CPA posting a whooping 337 percent for the month of January 2000.

### Mar. 7, 2001

#### \$2.4M earmarked for Kobler housing

Prompt completion of all 45 housing units in Koblerville is now within reach following the signing into law of a measure that appropriates \$2.4 million to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. The signing of acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan of House Bill 12-235 into Public Law 12-40 will help NMHC meet its original completion target for the Koblerville project this year, almost two years since actual construction started in 1999. Housing Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed majority of the units have already been pre-qualified to interested families and that NMHC expects to officially award the units soon after construction work is completed in three months.

### SILC: Disability a sign of changing times

Bishop Thomas J. Camacho officiated a Special Mass Sunday at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in recognition of hundreds of individuals with disabilities and advocating agencies in the Commonwealth. CNMI State Independent Living Council Chair Brian Farley said the Special Mass was to celebrate the Disability Recognition Month declared earlier by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. In his remarks, Mr. Farley explained that disability is a sign of the changing times, a time to recognize that having a disability is a normal part of the human experience.

### Mar. 7, 2003

### **DPH** assures it will pay \$4.1K fine

The Department of Health is willing to pay the fine recently imposed on it by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violating federal regulations on underground storage tanks. "We will pay. We're here to comply with the federal rules so will do that," said deputy secretary for public health Pete Untalan yesterday. In a statement, the EPA asked the DPH to pay a fine of \$4,100 for failing to notify the Division of Environmental Quality of its underground fuel tanks, not having an adequate release detection on its underground fuel tanks and piping; and failure to replace, upgrade, or close existing substandard tank system. Dean Higuchi of the EPA's Region IX office said four other Saipan facilities received citations for "less significant violations" of underground storage tank regulations. EPA, together with DEQ, conducted inspections of the facilities on-island.

### **Torres slams Taitano's appointment to CSC**

In a privilege speech before the House yesterday, Rep. Stanley T. Torres raised objections to the Governor's nomination of Customs and Quarantine Special Assistant Frank I. Taitano to the Civil Service Commission board. Taitano's appointment, according to Torres, violated CNMI Code section § 8111, which states that no member of the commission may be a candidate for public office or hold an elected position or a position in the executive branch which is filled by appointment of the Governor. Reached for comment, Press Secretary Peter A. Callaghan quoted the Governor's counsel as saying that the provision cited by Torres is outweighed by Article 20 of the Constitution, pertaining to composition and appointment of the Civil Service board.

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### MMAC team meeting on March 8

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team meeting on Thursday, March 8, 5:30pm, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. All team captains or their representatives are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

The 2012 MMAC teams are 302nd FRG, Ahu, Aschoscho, Bodig, #FREEDAVE, IT&E/Saipan Southern High School, Joeten/Marianas High School, Marriage Encounter, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Take Care/Grace Christian Academy and Tan Holdings/Kagman High School. The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held from 6pm to 6am on April 27-28 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. (PR)

#### Air Force training on **Farallon de Medinilla**

The U.S. Air Force is currently conducting training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 9, from 7am to 5pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

### **General farmers meeting**

This is to inform all farmers that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will be hosting a general farmers meeting for election of new administrators for the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District. The term of office for the new administrators is from fiscal year 2012 to 2015. The meeting will be held at the Kagman Division of Agriculture station on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, from 10am to 11:30am. For more information or any concerns, call 256-3319 and ask for Diana Gabaldon. (PR)

### KHS progress reports out today

To all parents/guardians of Kagman High School:

Progress reports will be issued today, March 7, 2012, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Teachers will distribute for all subjects. Please ask your child for their 1st – 4th period teachers' and classroom numbers. This will lessen your time on where to go when you are getting their progress report. It will be a regular bell schedule and there will be no half-day schedule. Students will be dismissed at 2:50pm. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840 or e-mail kagmanhs@gmail.com. (PR)

#### MHS Class of '96 reunion meeting

Marianas High School Class of '96 will be having a reunion meeting on March 9, 2012, 7pm, at the residence of Jenn Castro in Koblerville. For more information, contact Gary Villagomez at 789-0894 (cell) or 256-0252 (home). (PR)

#### **UOG** math contest for March

The University of Guam Division of Mathematical Sciences has posted the March problems online at www.uog.edu/mathematics. Solutions are due by March 31, 2012 and must be submitted via email to uog\_math@yahoo.com. Submis-

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Happy birthday greetings go out to Cesz Evangelista, who is celebrating her special day today, March 7, 2012. May you enjoy the Lord's presence today! God Bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

sions must include the words "Math Contest" in the subject line of the email. In the body of the email please include your name, mailing address, school, and grade. This is the final month of the competition. Winners will be announced on Math Day in April. For more information contact Hideo Nagahashi or Grazyna Badowski, UOG Division of Mathematical Sciences, uog\_math@ yahoo.com. (UOG)

#### **UOG College Nights March 19-22**

The University of Guam hosts College Nights on March 19, 20, 21, and 22. All College Nights will be held in the UOG Student Center Food Court and will begin at 6:00 p.m. All graduating seniors and their parents are invited to attend any one of the College Nights. Information on how to apply for financial aid, steps to admission, placement tests, and academic programs will be presented. Applications will be on hand and administrators and faculty will be available for one-to-one discussions. For more information contact Joan Swaddell at 735-2271. (UOG)



**EDUCATION PARTNERS** Students of Ms. Linda Anastacio's class, Tanapag Elementary School, are all smiles in appreciation of the Saipan Tribune's "Partners in Education" program.



### **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **DPW12-RFP-002**

### PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE REMOVAL

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Procurement of Services for Hazardous Waste Removal**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, under Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30.3-210 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Services will be available on or after February 22, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on March 12, 2012. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time March 19, 2012

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- Operation Plan: 40%
- Past Experience on Similar Projects 40%
- Professional Qualifications: 10% Financial Proposal: 10%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW12-RFP-002." For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, March 26, 2012. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional nitting a Notice of Intent to Pron submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, March 26, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 26, 2012 and must be received no later April 05, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNMI Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with § 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/S/ VICENTE B CASTRO Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN Director of Procurement & Supply





# INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-009

### **SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF WATER DIVISION ANNUAL MATERIALS**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-009, Supply & Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than April 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM, (ChST) at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions with regards to CUC-RFP-12-009 must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 19, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joel Hoepner, CUC Water/Wastewater Division Engineer via email joel.hoepner@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

> ABE UTU MALAE **Executive Director**

# **Opinion**



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> Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

> > MEMBER

**AP** The Associated Press

**Pacific Islands News Association** 

### **EDITORIAL**

### **Is Syria worth fighting for?**

here's an old quote that some people, probably

wrongly, attribute to Mark Twain that's now seen on bumper stickers: "Denial isn't a river in Egypt." No, denial is when people ignore what's staring them in the face, like the fact that war-weary Americans don't want any part of a political strategy that might lead to more U.S. troops taking part in another country's fightand that includes Syria's.

It's not that there aren't good reasons to want to help topple the despotic regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton even says Assad could be classified as a war criminal, given the estimated 7,500 civilians killed by his forces since Syria's revolt began in March 2011.

Americans can see what is happening in Egypt—where President Hosni Mubarak was rightly pushed out, but the repressive generals who propped him up remain in power—and can envision something similar occurring in Syria. Would Assad's generals turn their backs on him if it allowed them to keep control of the army?

Ever since he took over after his father Hafez al-Assad's death in 2000, Assad has been considered ill-suited for the power given to him. The trained ophthalmologist might not have become president were it not for the death of his brother, Basil, in a 1994 car crash. It was Basil who was being groomed for leadership.

Observers calculating the geopolitics of the Mideast say the United States must do all it can to ensure the fall of the Assad regime because it is in league with Iran, which clearly wants to establish its hegemony in the region. They want President Obama to spell out what he means when he says America will use "every tool available" to stop Assad's slaughter of civilians.

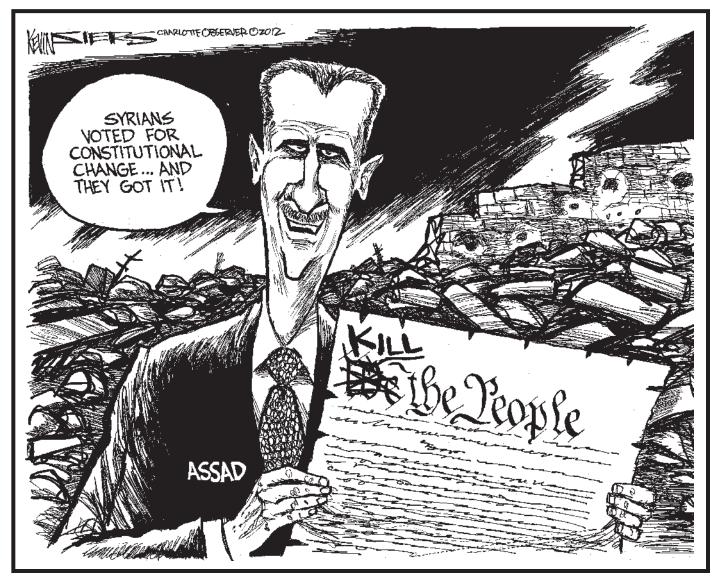
Obama should make it clear that he does not mean U.S. military involvement at any level. The Arab League has a diplomatic plan that would lead to Assad's stepping down from power, but it failed to gain approval by the U.N. Security Council because of opposition by Russia and China.

But China on Sunday did call for an immediate ceasefire and expressed its support for the appointment of a joint special envoy on the Syrian crisis by the United Nations and the Arab League. In the meantime, increased efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the Syrian people must be made. Red Cross convoys have been blocked.

Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., are among an increasingly vocal congregation arguing that the United States should provide arms to the rebels. But so far their view has been held off by that of calmer heads, including Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., who said, "We should be extremely skeptical about actions that could commit the United States to military options in Syria."

That has to be the bottom line—to avoid any step that could lead to another costly military adventure at a time when this nation is still struggling to overcome the recession's impact. It is hard for Americans not to want to jump in when they see oppressed people who need a helping hand, but any nation must first consider whether making such a leap would weaken its ability to help its own people.

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### On The Road again

his semester, I will be engaging foreign and English language students at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Xue (Shenyang Aerospace University) on the subject, "Conversations On The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy."

Last Aug. 30, 2011, I wrote: "We always sense the passion of our body, heart and soul, and the manifestation of our profound humanness. Mine is reflected in *The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy*, a four-year writing output from members of the Symposium for Realistic Living. We hope to get it into book form in the hands of those interested by December of this year."

Well, we were a month late. In January the book finally made the market but the wait and the cross-editing has been all worth it. Those interested might catch blips of it on Amazon.com and iUniverse; those wanting to get hold of a copy, the ISBN for the book is 978-1-4620-8364-0, and for the eBook, 978-1-4620-8365-7, \$20 and \$4, respectively.

If readers happen to notice the similarities of the content and language expressions in some of my writings and those in the book, it is not accidental. I am a member of the Symposium for Realistic Living and we swim in the same sea of linguistic discourse. My colleagues are just better at writing their thoughts than I am, so this book is very readable. Their bios are up front before the Intro.

The book cover alone tells the whole story of the book's content. It is a photo of a paved road in disrepair branching to a gravel road strewn with autumn leaves with the title The Road from Empire to Eco-Democracy boldly emblazoned above a directional sign that says "Under Construction." (See inset.) The book attempts to capture a bird in flight, highlighting the meat and the motion of our human journey.

OK. Enough poetry. The Introduction addresses folks who classify themselves as "progressives," offering a comprehensive

practice of piecemeal repairs. That is to say, it offers more than just palliatives for CHC and the Retirement Fund, or the longing for a casino fill on treasury coffers! No less than presenting a social vehicle within which humanity can survive and thrive is proffered.

It has four parts. We previously touched on all four in this page before the book made print. First is a litany of 10 wake-up calls to civilized sleepers. Next is the invitation to take a long view. Third

### By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



presents objective pointers on how we "get there from here." All eco-democracy proponents, the lead writer is a towering giant of social and science thoughts; the co-authors include a female school principal ex-bush pilot of Alaska, a self-professed "political

is a practical image on how to view society as a whole. Finally, it

junky" Town Council member from old historic Lexington, Mass., a former oil company executive and adjunct MIT faculty from Hous-

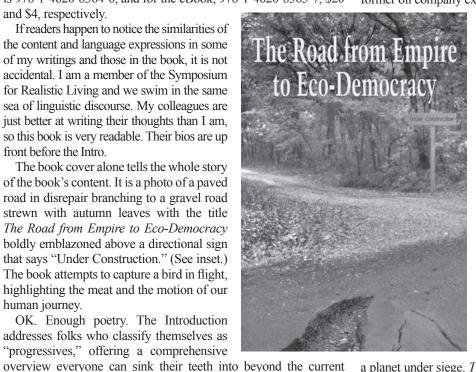
ton, Texas (heard of Sugarland where our Marianas friend Tom Delay had a home?), a PhD behavioral health advocate from and to all over, with the deft feminist and cultural touch of the lead writer's spouse and another colleague. One could not get a more diverse set of thinkers, all thoroughly ordinary and commonsensibly understandable. The book comes highly recommended.

The postlude is a Coda: The Challenge to Each of Us. I could think of 20 people just on Saipan who need to read this book and can initiate their own circle of conversations to get the talking part going. What has become clear in our time is that small groups of determined citizens can spell quite a difference locally, nationally, and globally, when they connect their gabbing together.

The poetry has all been around us a while. There is no blueprint that came with the planet Earth, was one in my early years from the geodesic guy. Eco-democracy proponent Mike Kibbins now spells Eaarth for

a planet under siege. Think global, act local, has given us the word "glocal" that has been in circulation for more than a decade, and we use quite liberally in our reflections printed in this daily. The one that illuminates our journey well says, We build the road as we travel. This last one illuminates the personal and the planetary journeys, and all points in between.

The blame game is passé and the whining is boring. Time for serious conversations. Shall we?



### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have

more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

### HLB 17-26, S3 will create negative impacts to your neighborhood

By THERESE T. OGUMORO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBLINE

he Zoning Office wishes to inform the public about the following changes in HLB 17-26 S3 introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres, which was passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation by a vote of 10 to 4 and is currently awaiting the governor's decision.

The bill seeks to do the following:

■ Rezone areas 350 feet from the centerline along both sides of the highways and primary/secondary roads to *mixed commercial zone* including Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) from Oleai Traffic Signal to Wing Beach in Marpi, Isa Drive, Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Road, As Perdido Road, Tun Kiyoshi Road, Tun Herman Pan Road, Beach Road, Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan Road, Koblerville Road, As Gonno Road, Quartermaster Road, Sugar King Road, Navy Hill Road, Kagman Road, Flame Tree Road, Naftan Road, Dandan Road, Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road (As Lito), Talofofo Road, and Santa Lourdes Road. This includes rezoning

neighborhoods that are currently residential to *mixed commercial* in parts of San Roque Village, Tanapag Village, Kagman Village, Dandan Village, China Town, Garapan Village, Beach Road, Oleai Village, As Lito, Capitol Hill, Talafofo Area, Santa Lourdes Area, and Koblerville.

- The bill also rezones the following additional areas: Obyan area to mixed commercial, east of the airport to industrial, six specified lots in a residential zone of Koblerville to mixed commercial, all of the residential area in China Town to village commercial, Sadog Tasi from rural to village commercial, the Gualo Rai Loop from residential to village commercial, and several individually named lots to industrial zoning.
- The bill reinstates zoning the entire village of Tanapag as village commercial under SLL 17-2.

The Zoning Office previously held public hearings on 23 of the 29 rezones included in this bill and recommended five of these rezones based on public comments and zoning principles. The Office and Zoning board rejected 18 of the rezones, also based on public comments and zoning principles. The floor amendments in this bill include six rezones never previously presented

to the public or the Zoning Office, on which no public hearings have been held.

Highly intense commercial uses are allowed in a mixed commercial zone, including pawn shops, transfer stations, warehousing/general wholesaling, manufacturing and processing, gas stations, bars, dry cleaning plants, auto shops and paint booths, helicopter pads, communication towers, and wastewater treatment plants.

The Zoning board had proposed maintaining the villages as village residential zones to preserve the neighborhood characteristics of such areas, while recognizing the need for light commercial uses, such as bookstores, catering/bakeries, small-scale restaurants, most home businesses, and mom-and-pop stores.

If any resident needs more information regarding the proposed rezones, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. The Zoning board and Office urge you to send your comments to the governor and your elected representatives.

Therese T. Ogumoro is the acting administrator of the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

### Chinese cuisine

By DONALD HUANG

Note: Donald Huang is a hard-working student at NMC and enjoys writing about what he knows best. In this short piece, he explains clearly the different types of Chinese cuisine.—Joe Race, English 202 adjunct instructor, NMC

he Chinese have a long known history of 5,000-plus years, and during this lengthy period of time they have invented many things to improve their comforts and lifestyles. One of these is Chinese cuisine and it carries its influence to wherever Chinese people go. Chinese cuisine is made up of eight different culinary traditions, with each noticeable tradition from a different part of China. The eight culinary traditions are Yue, Min, Hui, Lu, Zhe, Xiang, Chuan, and Su.

Of the eight traditions, three are the most influential around the world: Yue (Cantonese cuisine), Sichuan cuisine, and the Lu (Shandong cuisine). These culinary traditions are greatly affected by particular factors such as geographical location, climate, vegetation growth, lifestyle, and cooking utensils. The amount and supplies of salt and sugar also affect the taste of the dishes greatly, as the food tends to get saltier in areas nearer the sea.

In this explanation about Chinese cuisine, we will discuss the eight culinary traditions of China. Let us start with the first two culinary traditions: the Yue (Cantonese cuisine) and the Chuan (Sichuan cuisine). Yue cuisine is one of the best known and most influential cuisine in the world. As one of the main representatives of Chinese cuisine, many Chinese restaurants use the Yue culinary tradition of cooking. A few examples, such as Sweet & Sour Pork or Chicken Stir-Fry, are very well known among foreigners. The

Yue cuisine has some special customs that its people use, Yum Cha for drinking tea and Dim Sum for small, hearty dishes. Drinking tea is an everyday routine, and people are accustomed to eating Dim Sum in the morning while drinking tea.

Sichuan cuisine is another well-known culinary tradition and influential representative of Chinese cuisine. Sichuan cuisine is easily identified by its bold, spicy taste. Although it is spicy, it is also very delicious and some spices contribute to its unique flavor. Hua Jiao, or Sichuan peppercorn, is a spice that "takes" out the unpleasant flavor of some foods, making it smell better and giving it a unique taste. Zhitianjiao, the Sichuan chili, is the famed chili that contributes to the spiciness of Sichuan cuisine.

The next three culinary traditions we will discuss will be the Min, Hui, and Xiang cuisines. The Min cuisine originated from the Fujian province, and its menu is composed of the hundreds of types of seafood that thrive in coastal regions. Chefs have many special ways to prepare seafood and take away the raw smell so it can be delicious. Next is the Hui cuisine: Originating from the Anhui province of China, it uses local herbs and vegetables as its prime ingredients instead of seafood. Its geographical location, near the Huangshan Mountains, supplies it with fresh bamboo and edible mushrooms. The Xiang cuisine is next. Although it also emphasizes the presence of spiciness in its food, the Xiang cuisine also emphasizes aroma and deep color. Another characteristic is that the Xiang cuisine applies a wide range of vegetables that grow within its agricultural region.

Hungry yet? Let us go now to the Lu, Su, and Zhe cuisines.

The last three culinary traditions that will be discussed will be the Lu (very popular), Su, and Zhe cuisines. The Lu cuisine has a long history and was once an important part of the Imperial Cui-

sine of ancient China. However, it is not as popular in middle or southern China. The Lu cuisine's most famous dish, however, is the famed Beijing Roast Duck, or known as Peking Duck, which is famed for its great, special taste. The next cuisine is the Su cuisine, which originates from the provinces next to the Yangtze River. It has a variety of meat, seafood, vegetables, and seasonings, and some of its most famous dishes include Jinling "salted dried duck," or Yangzhou "steamed jerky strips."

Last of all is the Zhe cuisine, which originated from the Zhejiang Province. Instead of preparing foods with oil and heavy seasoning, the Zhejiang culinary tradition prefers its foods to be fresh with fragrance and lightly seasoned.

There are also other minority cuisines of the native rural cuisines but they will not be covered until next time. Besides the foods listed above, Chinese cuisine also has a large selection of desserts and teas that people enjoy after the main meals.

The eight culinary traditions of China have many similarities and differences, ranging from Southern Yue cuisine to the northern Lu cuisine, flavors ranging from spicy and salty, to sweet, and combinations of flavorings and spices that have developed over the centuries of Chinese history. Each culinary tradition uses different kinds of meat and vegetables that grow within its area. They also use different cooking methods, which include steaming, frying, cooking, boiling, and many other methods that are surprisingly delicious. Three of the most well known Chinese cuisines—Yue, Chuan, and Lu—are increasingly popular around the world. Since there are eight culinary traditions and there is some overlapping of dishes, it may be difficult to distinguish one culinary tradition from the other, but that is unnecessary because all eight culinary traditions are part of one large cuisine, the Chinese cuisine. Taste, identify and enjoy!

### **Letter to the Editor**

### A missed chance to be hospitable

An unprecedented event will occur on Saipan next week: The *Queen Mary* 2 cruise ship will arrive on March 15 with some 2,400 passengers and 1,600 crew members. Though the Marianas Visitors Authority has known about it for some time, and did inform its members, it did not see fit to inform the general community, giving it no opportunity to participate in this rare and exciting event.

While there aren't enough pigs, cows and chickens on Saipan to feed 4,000 guests, it would have been nice if locals had been consulted in helping the ship's cooks purchase and prepare a meal of kelaguen and tetiyas, the barbecued chicken and ribs, the red rice, the roast pig that are so uniquely local foods, so that cruise passengers could, literally, get a "taste of the Marianas" while in the vicinity.

Nor are there enough buses and taxis to give rides to all the passengers who might want to see some of Saipan's sights. But, admittedly belatedly, the Chamber of Commerce is now encouraging local residents to offer rides—either just into Garapan or Susupe.

or to tourist sites around the island, to any passengers that might be walking along the roads on the 15th. The ship arrives at about 5am, and is due to leave at about 5pm the same day.

Though it's not yet in the works, it might be nice, helpful, if someone could erect tents at the entrance to the port, and put up signs so that residents ready to offer rides could just show up at the tents, rather than accosting people as they walk along the roads, which could cause some traffic hazards. QM2 passengers who just wanted to walk could do so uninterruptedly, and those who wanted a ride would only have to go so far as the tent, while those offering rides would not have to cruise up and down the roads looking for pedestrians, but could go directly to the tents.

If there'd been time and notice, Saipan's youth could have provided a dance/concert/performance at the dock, say mid-afternoon, for passengers interested in local culture and entertainment.

The visit of the QM2 will bring in a fair amount of much-

needed revenue to the CNMI. It is, moreover, an extraordinary event. Yet there's no evidence that anyone has made any effort to take advantage of this rare opportunity to make some headlines, to offer some island hospitality to the passengers, to give the community an opportunity to participate in the event, to make the event memorable to the passengers, to the crew, to the island's residents.

Tours of the ship for residents would have been nice too. But residents' druthers are probably the last thing those big cruise line owners and managers would ever think of. At least we can all gawk at the sight of the huge liner towering above the port.

It's just too bad that such a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and show the island's hospitality is apparently being so totally wasted.

Ruth Tighe Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

**▲86° ▼75°** 

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲ 86° **▼** 75°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲86° ▼75°** 



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

**▲** 86° **▼** 75°

Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

**▲86° ▼75°** 

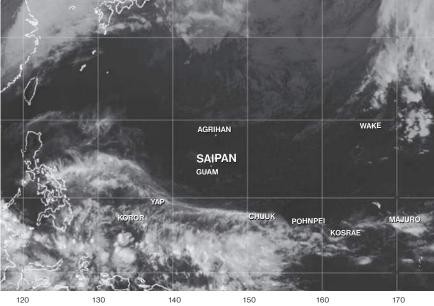
### **Micronesia**

Guam and Rota	a Thundershowers	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 78
Yap	Showers	<b>▲</b> 88	<b>▼</b> 77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	<b>\$90</b>	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 79
Kosrae	Showers	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	<b>▲</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 79

### **Around The Globe**

Auckland	Rain	<b>▲</b> 72 ▼66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 45 <b>▼</b> 24
Hong Kong	Showers	<b>▲</b> 69 <b>▼</b> 62
Honolulu	Showers	<b>▲</b> 77 <b>▼</b> 68
London	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 54 ▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 60 <b>▼</b> 43
Manila	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 90 <b>▼</b> 78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 74 <b>▼</b> 55
Miami	Windy	<b>▲</b> 79 <b>▼</b> 70
New York	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 62 <b>▼</b> 45
Osaka	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 57 ▼43
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 51 <b>▼</b> 33
Pusan	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 50 ▼41
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 61 <b>▼</b> 41
Salem	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 54 ▼31
San Francisco	Sunny	<b>▲</b> 62 <b>▼</b> 43
Seoul	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 47 <b>▼</b> 28
Tokyo	Showers	<b>▲</b> 50 <b>▼</b> 46
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 67 <b>▼</b> 47

Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough curves northeastward from 16N168E over Wake Island to beyond 25N at 174E. Meanwhile, an upper-level trough drops southward from beyond 25N168E through a circulation near 22N168E continuing over Wake Island to end near 14N167E. These features are generating scattered showers and thunderstorms around Wake Island north of a line from 18N165E to 15N170E to 19N175E to 18N180. Trade-wind convergence continues to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area from south of Koror to just south of Pohnpei and across Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 200 miles of a line from 3N130E to 2N143E to 5N180.

Tides									
Saipan Harbor									
12:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet						
7:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet						
1:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet						
6:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet						

Su	nrise/Suns	et	Moo	nrise/Moon	set
Today	6:30 AM	6:26 PM	Today	5:19 PM	5:09 AM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM	Thursday	6:17 PM	5:54 AM
Friday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Friday	7:16 PM	6:40 AM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM	Saturday	8:17 PM	7:27 AM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM	Sunday	9:18 PM	8:16 AM

### GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the

#### **PICTURES** ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

following

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. **■ TRÁVELOGUE**
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.  $\blacksquare$  Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

### For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are 6397 235-2440 235-8747

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### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

	PAR					RIVAL	
GUAM (GUI				ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5	C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SI	PN)-ROTA	(ROP)		ROTA (ROP)	-SAIPAN	(SPN)	
C05064	-	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GU	IAM (GUM)	)		GUAM (GUM	)-SAIPAI	N	
C05064		5:45am	1. 5 via ROP	C05062		3:45am	1. 5 via ROF
C05070		5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069		3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
						7:50am	
C05068		9:15am	Daily	C05071			Daily
C05074		1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073		10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076		4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075		2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6	C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05072		10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079		9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072		10:55pm	3, 6	C05079		9:35pm	3, 6
	·	•			·	,	
SAIPAN-NA			D. "I	NARITA (NR			D. 'I
DL287		8:40am	Daily	DL298		3:00pm	Daily
DL285		9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL288		1:15am+1	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OS	AKA (KIY)	١		OSAKA (KIX	1-SAIPAI		
0Z119	4:00am		Daily	07120	-	2:20am+1	Daily
OLII)	1.004111	0.104111	buny	02120	7.00pm	L.Louiii i	buny
SAIPAN-SE	OUL (ICN)	)		SEOUL (ICN)	-SAIPAN	l	
0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1	0Z603		2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120			Daily via K
07119		11:20am	Daily via KIX	0Z605		1:00am+1	
0Z604	3:20pm		Daily	02605		1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
02001	0.L0piii	1.100111	bully	02000	0.100111	1.004111 1	1, 2, 0, 1, 0,
SAIPAN-BU				BUSAN (PUS			
0Z608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5	DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
OAIDAN OU	IANTHAIL A	70.1.W		OHANTHOU	/0.1.W. 0	AIDAN	
SAIPAN-GU 3U8646		7:30am	2 /	GUANZHOU 3U8645			1 [
3U0040	4.ZUdIII	1.3Udili	2, 6	300043	1.40pm	3:00am+1	1, 0
SAIPAN-SH	ANGHAI (	PVG)		SHANGHAI (	PVG)-SA	IPAN	
3U8648		8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647		5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-M <i>i</i>				MANILA (MN			
0Z606/701		11:15am	1 via ICN	DL172/288		1:15am+1	Daily via N
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GU
			via ICN	C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GU
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605		1:00am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173		10:25pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605		1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
C05068/183		9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		vvpiii		via ICN
C05068/183		9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	PR110/C05071	10:15nm	7·50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
000000/103	U.LJaiil	7.TUPIII	ı, ə, 4, o, ı via GUM	I KIIO/COJUIT	iv.ivµiii	ו־וווםטט. ו	ı, ə, ə, o, ı via GUM
C05076/183	2·10nm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	C0192/5071	10.25nm	7:50am+1	
				C0192/3011	iu.zəpiii	1.5Udili+1	
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7	00404/5074	44.40	750 4	GUM-Palau
			via GUM	C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via				via GUM
			GUM-Palau	0Z704/603		2:20pm	Daily via IC
0Z604/703		11:00pm	Daily via ICN	C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GU
C05072/PR11		7:50am+1	1, 5, 7		,		
,	r ·		via GUM				
C05072/PR11	1 10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HO	NC RUNG	(HKG)		HONG KONG	(HRG)-	RAIDAN	
<b>DAIPAN-NU</b> 0Z606/721		12:00pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603		2:20pm	Daily via IO
•							
0Z606/721	Z.4Uam	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z750/603		2:20pm	Daily via ICN
00507/1:	0.40	10.05	via ICN	0Z722/605		1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05076/147		10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
•		10:30pm	Daily via ICN				via ICN
0Z604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN	C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUI
0Z604/723 0Z604/749	3:20pm 3:20pm	10:30pm 10:50pm	Daily via ICN Daily via ICN		11:15pm	7:50an	n+1

and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines: OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA	requency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	THE IEU	10.00	10.10	Duny
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10.20	10.10	Dully	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam			,	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122		17:10	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		17:00		Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

### NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ \*11 on any PTI cellular phone

Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

# Filipino woman medically evacuated from cruise ship

SANTA RITA, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 assisted in the medical evacuation of a Philippine national who required advanced medical care on Feb. 28.

Knight Rider 05, a Navy MH-60S helicopter, was launched from Andersen Air Force Base at approximately 11:45 a.m. The crew of two pilots, a crew chief, rescue swimmer and an Air Force doctor flew approximately 50 miles northwest of Guam to meet the cruise ship Arcadia-at-Sea. After lowering the search-and-rescue swimmer and corpsman, Navy personnel assessed and stabilized the patient. Upon determining that the woman was stable enough to move, the crew hoisted the patient onto Knight Rider 05 and transported her to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam where she was treated and later released that same day

The incident was the second search-and-rescue executed by HSC-25 personnel this year.

The mission of HSC-25 is to deploy detachments to conduct helicopter sea com-



bat operations in support of tics, search and rescue, force 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Fleets and national defense. In addition, the Island Knights provide logis-

protection, and disaster response support to Guam and the Commonwealth of the ron, HSC-25 actively contrib-

Northern Mariana Islands, As the Navy's forward-deployed vertical replenishment squad-

utes to the nation's Maritime Strategy efforts, which call for the security of America and its citizens, the application of sea

power to ensure the protection of America's way of life and a strengthened partnership with allies. (USN)

### Naval Base Guam welcomes students for historical tour



MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS (SW) JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—Students from Simon Sanchez High School toured some of the historical sites on U.S. Naval Base Guam on Feb. 29.

The students and their teacher visited the Sumay Cemetery, War Dog Memorial, Captain Glass monument at Gab Gab Beach and the Japanese Prisoner of War Amphitheatre.

"The Navy is committed to preserving the culture and heritage of Guam," said NBG Public Affairs Officer Annette Donner. "One of the reasons we are

so happy to bring the students onto the base is that it gives them an opportunity to see some of the cultural and historic sites that they normally wouldn't have access to."

First stop on the tour was Sumay, the site of a pre-World War II Chamorro village that was occupied by the Japanese during from 1942 to 1944, and later destroyed by the American preliberation bombardment. Today, a cross representing the village's original church and the Sumay cemetery are all that remains.

"I didn't know much about Sumay before, so I am actually pretty glad I went on this

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Patrick Mihalko, assigned to U.S Naval

Base Guam security, talks about the history of military working dogs to

Simon A. Sanchez High School students at the War Dogs Memorial on

NBG Feb. 29. The students' visit was part of a tour that took them to

field trip," said SSHS student Fatima Valencia.

Valencia said the tour was part of a research project involving World War II that was assigned by her teacher.

After Sumay, the students were taken to the War Dog Memorial, home to the dogs that served with Marines in Guam during the war. Once there, they were surprised by NBG Security, who brought several of today's working dogs and spoke to the history of the War Dogs in Guam as well as the duties of today's working dogs at the base.

These devil dogs, as they are sometimes called, are documented as having saved hundreds of Marines' lives during the World War II Battle for Guam. They were trained to search for enemies in the jungle, find mines and booby traps, and deliver messages, ammunition and medical supplies.

'This tour is an extension that helps [students] with their research," said SSHS teacher Linda Taylor. "It also gives the students more knowledge about their heritage, about their culture, and about their history."

At Gab Gab Beach the students learned the area is believed to have been a popular fishing site for ancient Chamorros and is near where the American flag was first raised in Guam in 1898 by Capt. Henry Glass, claiming the island for the United States. More than 45 years later the area became a vast recreation center for the 50,000 Marines stationed on the base during the war from 1944 to 1945. The students' last stop was at the Japanese POW Amphitheater, built by Japanese prisoners of war in 1945.

For information on Guam history and Chamorro culture, visit www.guampedia.com. (PR)

various historical and cultural sites on base. USS Bonhomme Richard makes brief stop in Guam

By DUKE RICHARDSON MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

SANTA RITA, Guam—The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard made a brief port call to Guam on March 3. The stop gave crew members and embarked Marines the opportunity to relax, unwind, and enjoy some tropical sights.

While a good portion of the crew took a well-deserved break from operations, work was still in full swing for others as the ship received supplies and fuel for its journey to the Far East.

"This visit to Guam gave our sailors and Marines the chance to visit a portion of the United States that most people within the 50 states won't ever get the chance to see," said Capt. Chuck.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST MC2 (SW) CORWIN COLBERT/RELEASED PACIFIC OCEAN (March 3, 2012) The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) pulls in to Apra Harbor Guam for a brief port visit March 3. The ship is currently in the middle of a scheduled deployment for its upcoming hull swap with USS Essex (LHD 2) in Japan.

Litchfield, Bonhomme Richard's commanding officer. "It also gave the ship a chance to take on fuel and supplies and to bring aboard personnel from [Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 search and rescue] detachment."

U.S. NAVY/COREY HENSLEY

"I definitely had fun spending time on the beach," said Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Nicole Gonzalez. "This was my first time visiting Guam and it was great to check out different areas with some friends from the ship. We didn't have that much time here but I still enjoyed it and wouldn't mind coming back one day on vacation to see more of Guam."

USS Bonhomme Richard is currently in the middle of a scheduled deployment for its upcoming hull swap with USS Essex in Japan.

# **Business**

# Survey: More optimism about US jobs and economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy is improving faster than economists had expected. They now foresee slightly stronger growth and hiring than they did two months earlier—trends that would help President Barack Obama's reelection hopes.

Those are among the findings of an Associated Press survey late last month of leading economists. The economists think the unemployment rate will fall from its current 8.3 percent to 8 percent by Election Day. That's better than their 8.4 percent estimate when surveyed in late December.

By the end of 2013, they predict unemployment will drop to 7.4 percent, down from their earlier estimate of 7.8 percent, according to the AP Economy Survey.

The U.S. economy has been improving steadily for months. Industrial output jumped in January after surging in December by the most in five years. Auto sales are booming. Consumer confidence has reached its highest point in a year. Even the housing market is showing



In this March 1, 2012 photo, Miha Jang serves bibimbop at Woori Village restaurant in Chicago. The U.S. economy is improving faster than economists had expected. They now foresee stronger growth and hiring than they did two months earlier-trends that would help President Barack Obama's re-election hopes.

signs of turning around.

"The economy is finally starting to gain some steam, with consumers and businesses more optimistic about prospects in 2012," said Chad Moutray, chief economist at the National Association of Manufacturers.

On Friday, the government

will issue the jobs report for February. Economists expect it to show that employers added a net 210,000 jobs and that the unemployment rate remained 8.3 percent.

The AP survey collected the views of two dozen private, corporate and academic economists on a range of indicators. Among their forecasts:

■ Americans will save gradually less and borrow more, reversing a shift toward frugality that followed the financial crisis and the start of the Great Recession.

■ Obama deserves little or

no credit for declining unemployment. Only one of the 19 economists who answered the question said Obama should get "a lot" of credit. They give most of the credit to U.S. consumers, who account for about 70 percent of economic growth, and businesses.

- The economy has begun a self-sustaining period in which iob growth is fueling more consumer spending, which should lead to further hiring.
- European leaders will manage to defuse their continent's debt crisis and prevent a global recession. But the economists think Europe's economy will shrink for all of 2012.
- The economy will grow 2.5 percent this year, up from the economists' earlier forecast of 2.4 percent. In 2011, the economy grew 1.7 percent.

The brighter outlook for jobs follows five straight months of declining unemployment. Employers added more than

200,000 net jobs in both December and January. The unemployment rate is at its lowest level in nearly three years.

One reason the rate has fallen so fast is that fewer out-of-work Americans have started looking for jobs. People out of work aren't counted by the Labor Department as unemployed unless they're actively seeking jobs.

Many economists have been surprised that the stronger economy hasn't led more people without jobs to start looking for work. If many more were looking, the unemployment rate would likely be higher.

Manufacturers have been hiring more consistently than other employers. Moutray expects factory output to rise 4 percent this year, better than in 2011. Manufacturers will have to continue hiring to keep up with demand, he said. That will help lower the unemployment rate to 8 percent by Election Day, he predicts.

### Overhead bins get bigger to fit more carry-on bags

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Fliers can stop sharpening their elbows. Overhead bins are getting bigger.

Packed planes and a high volume of carry-ons are forcing airlines to expand the space above passenger's heads. United and Delta are the latest airlines to replace or upgrade bins so they hold more luggage. And engineers at Boeing are designing jet interiors with today's bulkier luggage in mind.

It's a chance to placate passengers who feel like they're thrown into a roller derby every time they board a plane. Because of fees on checked bags, more passengers are bringing carry-ons, which are growing in size. And with planes more crowded than ever, bins fill up before everyone has reached their seat. Travelers fight physics and one another to shove one more bag overhead. Or they're forced to check luggage at the gate.

The result is upset travelers, harried flight attendants and

The percentage of passengers bringing bags on board has hovered around 87 percent in recent years, United Continental says. And "the size of the carry-on has increased ... They are stretching the limits of their bags," says Scott O'Leary, managing director of customer solutions at United Continental Holdings Inc.

Expanding bins is a smart way for airlines to set themselves apart, says Henry Harteveldt, who leads airline and travel analysis at Atmosphere Research Group, a market research firm. "Especially if they cater to the business traveler, they're hoping it will give them a small but noticeable competitive advantage."

Business travelers, for example, avoid an airline that doesn't have room for their carry-ons.

At first blush, it might seem like airlines risk giving away fees if more people can fit carryons on board. But they're not risking much as it turns out.

Airlines often waive bag fees when luggage can't fit overhead and must be checked at the gate. And business travelers, who generate most of the industry's revenue, are often exempt from baggage fees anyway.

But will bigger bins encourage fliers to bring larger bags? Airlines hope not, and are trying to crack down before luggage makes it into the cabin.

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

### **United Airlines gets** delay problems mostly fixed

CHICAGO (AP)—It looks like United Airlines fixed its computer problems just in time for busy weekday travel. United dealt with significant delays over the weekend as it integrated its passenger records data with Continental Airlines. United and Continental merged in 2010 but the company didn't finish merging all its operations until Saturday. The delays were worst on Saturday. By Sunday, flighttracking website Flightstats. com was showing 73 percent of United arrivals were ontime, although almost half its flights were late in leaving its big hub in Chicago.

### Merck: FDA won't OK its combo cholesterol drug now

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Federal regulators have rejected Merck & Co.'s new combination cholesterol drug, which includes a generic version of billion in six-month bills was the mega-blockbuster Lipitor-at least for now. It's unclear how long the ruling, announced Monday, might delay approval of the drug, as the Food and Drug Administration is requiring additional study data on the compound. It combines generic Lipitor, the top-

selling drug of all time, with Merck's cholesterol medicine Zetia. Approval could boost Merck's sagging cholesterol franchise by essentially replacing its existing combo pill, Vytorin, with one likely to be seen as more powerful. Vytorin sales have been dwindling for a few years due to concerns about how well it works, and now Merck has to contend with patients possibly defecting to the generic versions of Pfizer Inc.'s Lipitor that came on the market at the end of November.

### Rates drop at weekly Treasury bill auction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Interest rates on short-term Treasury bills fell in Monday's auction with rates on three-month bills dropping to their lowest level in five weeks. The Treasury Department auctioned \$33 billion in three-month bills at a discount rate of 0.08 percent, down from 0.115 percent last week. Another \$31 auctioned at a discount rate of 0.13 percent, down from 0.145 percent last week. The three-month rate was the lowest since these bills averaged 0.05 percent on Jan. 30. The six-month rate was the lowest since six-month bills averaged 0.125 percent on Feb. 21.

### Oil below \$107 after US, Israel meet on Iran

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil pric- \$123.80 per barrel in London. es hovered below \$107 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after U.S. and Israel leaders met to discuss growing tensions over Iran's nuclear program.

Benchmark oil for April delivery was down 2 cents to \$106.70 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 2 cents to settle at \$106.72 per barrel in New York on Monday.

Brent crude was steady at

After a meeting Monday in Washington, President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu showed no sign of give on competing ways to resolve the crisis. Obama urged pressure and diplomacy to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear bomb while Netanyahu emphasized his nation's right to a preemptive attack.

The U.S., Europe, Israel and other nations fear that Iran may be building a nuclear weapon.

Iran, the world's third-largest oil exporter, denies the charge.

"The Iranian fear premium didn't change in our view," energy consultant Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report.

Crude has risen from \$96 last month amid investor concern that a military conflict aimed at destroying Iran's nuclear capabilities would disrupt global oil supplies. Analysts say Saudi Arabia and other oil producers do not have enough spare capacity to quickly make

up for Iran's 4 million barrels a day of crude.

Analysts estimate crude would jump to \$150 in the wake of an attack by Israel on Iran's nuclear operations.

"The risk of a supply disruption due to geopolitical factors is uncomfortably high and increasing," said Richard Soultanian of NUS Consulting.

In other energy trading, heating oil fell 0.6 cent to \$3.21 per gallon and gasoline futures were steady at \$3.26 per gallon. Natural gas fell 0.5 cent at \$2.35 per 1,000 cubic feet.

### EADING INDICATORS

12,962.81 -14.76 0.11%

S&P 1,364.33 **NASDAQ** 2,950.48 -25.71 -0.86%

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

S	Australian Dollar	0.9412
terms	British Pound	0.6307
ıllar	Canadian Dollar	0.9952
In U.S. dollar	Chinese Yuan	6.3114
In U.	Euro	0.7574

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7612	Philipp
Indian Rupee	50.0320	Singap
Indonesian Rupiah	9,188.00	South k
Japanese Yen	81.4450	Swiss F
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0220	Taiwan
New Zealand Dollar	1.2266	Thailan

ine Peso 42.9500 1.2607 ore Dollar 1,122.97 Korean Won 0.9135 ranc Dollar 29.5135 ıd Baht

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012 **15** 

# **Nation**

# Obama, Netanyahu talk unity, underline differences

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taking sharply different stands, President Barack Obama on Monday urged pressure and diplomacy to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear bomb while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphasized his nation's right to a pre-emptive attack. Even in proclaiming unity, neither leader gave ground on how to resolve the crisis.

Seated together in the Oval Office, Obama and Netanyahu at times tried to speak for each other, and other times spoke past one another. The president and prime minister are linked by the history and necessity of their nations' deep alliance, if not much personal warmth, and both sought to steer the Iran agenda on their terms.

"I know that both the prime minister and I prefer to resolve this diplomatically," Obama said. "We understand the costs of any military action.'

If he agreed, Netanyahu said nothing about sanctions or talks with Iran, or Obama's position that there still is time to try to deter Iran peacefully. Instead, Netanyahu drew attention back to Obama's acknowledgement that Israel is a sovereign land that can protect itself how it sees fit.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens as President Barack Obama speaks during their meeting, Monday, March, 5, 2012, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

"I believe that's why you appreciate, Mr. President, that Israel must reserve the right to defend itself," Netanyahu said.

Israel, he added, must remain "the master of its fate." Israel has not yet decided whether to launch a unilateral strike on Iran, a point underscored in the White House meetings.

Across days of comments,

speeches and interviews, Obama and Netanyahu left no doubt about where they stand on Iran. Far less clear is whether they have done anything to alter each other's position in what has become a moment of reckoning over Iran, and an important foreign policy issue in the U.S. presidential race.

Both are adamant Iran must

ELECTION 2012

not develop a nuclear bomb. Obama's aim is to keep Israel from launching an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, fearing that would do little lasting good toward the goal and engulf the region and the United States in another war.

Senior Obama administration officials said the talks at the White House left the two sides closer

than they were a week ago. The Israelis walked away with prominent statements from Obama that he would not stand for containing a nuclear-armed Iran, and that the crisis was in the United States' interests to solve.

In turn, Israelis did acknowledge privately they would prefer a diplomatic solution, despite enormous skepticism of the Iranian government, officials said. And there were no demands that Obama set a new "red line" of what it would take for a U.S. strike—the U.S. position remains that Iran must not get a nuclear weapon.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversations.

Netanyahu emphasized that Israel must defend itself from an Iranian nuclear threat.

He said after his talks with Obama: "I think I was listened to and understood.

The last time the two men met in the Oval Office, in May, Netanyahu lectured Obama in front of reporters as differences over Mideast peace unfolded. This time, their body language as they spoke was not so glaring but still telling: Obama addressed the media; Netanyahu spoke directly to Obama and locked on him.

Both leaders see a nucleararmed Iran as a nightmare that could threaten Israel's survival and potentially allow terrorists to grab unthinkably deadly power. Their difference is not over whether force may be needed-Obama has been specific on his willingness to use it—but whether the time for such a drastic step is nearing.

Israel fears it may soon lose its window to take out Iran's nuclear facilities; Obama sees a longer period for intervention, based on Iran's current nuclear capability and the toll of growing sanctions. He has put increasing emphasis on the political, economic and potential death toll that could come with opening a new Mideast war.

There are other election-year stakes for Obama.

He is under pressure from Republican rivals, and even some Democratic allies, over his backing for Israel. That perception, in turn, can play an important role in swing states such as Florida, where there are many Jewish voters, and in Obama's ability to raise money for his

### Super Tuesday showdown: Romney-Santorum big day

WASHINGTON (AP)—On the eve of their Super Tuesday showdown, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum strained for an edge in Ohio on Monday and braced for the 10 primaries and caucuses likely to redefine the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

Newt Gingrich, though winless for more than a month, campaigned in Tennessee and issued a stream of signals that he intended to stay in the race.

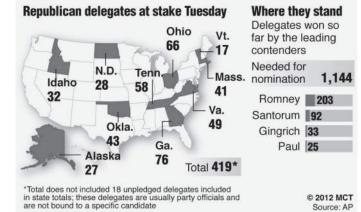
In a race marked by unpredictability, Romney's superior organization and the support of an especially deep-pocketed super PAC allowed him to compete all across the Super Tuesday landscape and potentially pick up more than half of the 419 delegates at stake.

Santorum cast the race in biblical terms, his David vs. Romney's Goliath. Even that "is probably a little bit of an understatement," he added.

By contrast, Romney projected confidence. "I hope that

### **Super Tuesday**

Americans in 10 states head to the polls March 6 to choose their party's presidential nominee. Democrats will choose President Barack Obama, but the Republican candidate is still undecided.



I get the support of people here in Ohio tomorrow, and in other states across the country. I believe if I do, I'll get the nomination," he said.

Primaries in Ohio, Georgia, Massachusetts, Vermont, Virginia, Oklahoma and Tennessee

Dakota and Alaska make Tuesday the busiest day of the primary season.

Unlike previous Republican campaigns, when a primary winner would typically win all of a state's delegates, allocations this year generally reflect plus caucuses in Idaho, North the split in the popular vote. As

a result, several candidates may be able to claim success once the Super Tuesday results are

Romney kept his focus on the economy in a final sprint across Ohio, the state that has drawn the most attention and television advertising. Pre-primary polls show him with momentum in a close race with Santorum.

"Other people in this race have debated about the economy, they've read about the economy, they've talked about it in subcommittee hearings,' Romney said dismissively of his opponents. "But I've actually been in it. I've worked in business, and I understand what it takes to get a business successful and to thrive."

Santorum, who narrowly lost Michigan to Romney last week, said that no matter how much his rival spends, "conservatives will not trust him, will not rally around him this primary season. ... We will be the nominee.'

### 3 kids survive twister strike

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)— When Latonya Stevens heard thunder and lightning in the distance, she knew the drill. Every time a storm drew near, her children would run to her room seeking comfort.

So Stevens turned on a hall light for the young kids as high winds began buffeting the house. Then she blacked out and awoke to find only one of the four children in sight and the house ripped apart.

She quickly assumed the worst: that a twister had carried off the other three kids.

"I was screaming for them," Stevens said Monday. "I was panicking. For a moment, I didn't know where they were."

No one knows precisely what happened, but this much is clear. The three children were in their rooms when the tornado approached. As the winds rose, most of the home's second floor was swept away. After the storm passed, the kids were found outside on the ground, one of them 100 feet away along a major highway.

All three emerged with only cuts and bruises—and a story to tell for the rest of their lives.

"It's a miracle they survived," said their grandfather, Clarence Gray Jr. "God was looking out for them."

Most of the family's possessions were lost. But by Monday, the children were playing in their grandparents' house if nothing had happened.

They picked up family photos scattered on a coffee table. "This was our house," Jamal said, pointing to a picture.

The children—3-year-old Amber, 4-year-old Ayanna and 7-vear-old Jamal—said they don't recall anything.

"They're like me. They don't remember what happened," Stevens said. "We don't know. Maybe it will come back to us eventually. I mean, I've sat down and tried to figure out what happened. I don't know," she said softly.

When storms moved into the Charlotte area late Friday, the four children were upstairs in their bedrooms. Their grandmother, Patricia Stevens, was watching TV downstairs on a couch. Their father, Tyrone Stevens, was out with friends who were in town for a basketball tournament.

The noise awoke the children, who initially went to their mother's room where they watched a Disney movie. When the storm died down, they returned to their beds.

But a half-hour later, Stevens heard a new storm approaching and got up to take care of the children. As she turned on the hall light, the house began to shake and the wind started to howl.

Then she lost consciousness.

Stevens awoke in the dark holding the other 3-year-old twin, Ashley, and shouting for her children. The roof was gone. Only then did she realize that her house had been struck by a tornado.

She hurried downstairs in the dark, screaming "Where's my babies," and spotted her mother who also was frantic.

### Muslims at rally: NYPD surveillance keeps us safe

NEW YORK (AP)—Qazi Qayyoom, an imam in Queens, says he believes the New York Police Department is keeping his community safe, and if that means some Muslims are monitored, so be it.

"The police, they come to us and say, 'Is everything OK? How can we help you?" he said Monday. "They are not trying to hurt us. For this, I want to say thank you and tell them I support them."

Qayyoom and about three dozen other people on Monday attended the first rally held by Muslims in support of the NYPD following a series of Associated Press stories detailing the police department's secret surveillance of mosques, Muslim-owned businesses and college campuses across the Northeast since Muslim extremists attacked the World Trade

Center on Sept. 11, 2001, killing thousands of people.

The rally, held by the American Islamic Leadership Coalition outside police headquarters in downtown Manhattan, illustrated a division even among the faith's adherents about how far authorities should go in seeking to protect the nation's largest city from terrorists. Other Muslim groups were quick to say the coalition didn't represent their views.

Among the speakers was Dr. Zudhi Jasser, the narrator of "The Third Jihad," a documentary about the dangers of radical Islam that the NYPD showed in the lobby of a police training area and has since disavowed.

"We are not here to criticize the NYPD but rather thank them for monitoring extremists, a job that Muslims should be doing," Jasser said.

# Asia

### China: US must build trust on Taiwan and Tibet issues

eign minister said Tuesday that often fractious ties between Beijing and Washington are steadily improving, but that more trust is needed and the onus is on the U.S. to respect Chinese interests on issues such as Taiwan and Tibet.

Yang Jiechi's comments on China's most important bilateral relationship reflect the positive gloss given to ties by the successful getting-to-know-you visit to the U.S. last month by Vice President Xi Jinping, the heir-apparent to President Hu Jintao.

With its economy slowing and a delicate leadership transition looming, Beijing is looking to keep relations with Washington on an even keel, barring any major affronts to Chinese dignity or security.

Addressing reporters at an annual news conference, Yang said the key to sustaining momentum is for each to heed the other's core concerns, although he mentioned only issues important to Beijing.

"In particular, the U.S. side

needs to honor its commitments and carefully and properly handle Taiwan- and Tibet-related issues that concern China's core interests," Yang said at the packed conference, held on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress, China's legislature.

Beijing has long pressured Washington to end arms sales to Taiwan—a territory China claims—and withdraw support for Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, whom China accuses of fomenting separatism in Chinese-ruled Tibet.

U.S. diplomats say tensions with Beijing have risen since President Barack Obama announced plans to shift the U.S. military's focus back to the Asia-Pacific region following the winding down of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Chinese foreign relations experts and outspoken military officers have expressed concerns that Washington is seeking to contain China's growing influence and turn the region against it.

Asked about the U.S. strategic pivot, Yang said Beijing was keeping its eye on the long-term positive momentum in relations and called for more high-level exchanges between Washington and Beijing as a way to build trust.

"The two countries should work together to increase mutual strategic trust, remove various disturbances and open up new prospects," he said.

Yang praised Xi's recent trip to the U.S. as having boosted relations and said Beijing and Washington were in "close communication" on Syria and Iran, issues that have generated a degree of bilateral friction over recent months.

Beijing has spoken out over damaging new bilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program, and Washington has expressed repeated bitter disappointment over Beijing's veto of United Nations resolutions aimed at ending Syria's bloody crackdown on dissent.

### PH quake cracks buildings, injures 9

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— A moderately strong earthquake cracked buildings and knocked televisions and glassware from tables Tuesday in a central Phil-

ippine province, injuring at least nine people and sending others rushing outside in panic, officials said.

The quake came a month after 58 people died in a quake on another Philippine island.

Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the quake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.2 struck Tuesday morning and was centered at sea just two miles (three kilometers) north of Masbate City on the island province of Masbate.

The quake, which was caused by movement in a local fault, was felt in nearby provinces.

Masbate City Mayor Socrates Tuason told The Associated Press by telephone that there were no immediate reports of major damage, and power and communications were unaffected by the temblor in his hillside city of 90,000 people.

But the quake caused an abandoned three-story building to collapse and shattered glass windows in houses and other buildings, at least two of which were cleared of people and cordoned off by police while government engineers checked

their stability. Large numbers of people rushed out of homes, offices, hospitals and schools and stayed in the streets as a number of aftershocks rattled nerves after the quake.

At least nine people were slightly injured by falling objects and collapsing walls, officials said.

"I was having breakfast with my wife when everything started to shake. The TV set and glasses fell off the table," Tuason said. "When I got out, I saw all the people in the community were on the streets."

Disaster-response and first aid teams were deployed across the city, Tuason said.

### **ASIAN BRIEFS**

#### **Aung San Suu Kyi** campaigns in Myanmar's capital

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar

(AP)—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi brought her political challenge to the gates of her rivals Monday, campaigning for her party's candidates facing a tough battle in Myanmar's remote, military-dominated capital. Suu Kyi spoke at two rallies for candidates of her National League for Democracy, who are running in four constituencies in Naypyitaw in the April 1 by-elections. The party is fielding candidates for all 48 seats at stake nationwide after boycotting 2010's general election as unfair. In this stronghold of the ruling army-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, she said she had faith in the area's residents.

### Talks bog down on US-Afghan agreement

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)— Another teen Tibetan Negotiations over a long-term U.S. military presence in Afghanistan have bogged down over issues of detainees, night raids and quarrels within the Afghan president's inner circle, throwing the whole deal into question. The arrangement would formalize a U.S. role after NATO's planned pullout in 2014. The deadlock reflects growing hostility on the part of the Afghan leadership and increasing exasperation in Washington. Trust has eroded in recent days with anti-American protests over Quran burnings at a U.S. base, a rising number of U.S. troops gunned down

by Afghan security forces and election-year demands to bring the troops home.

### self-immolates in China

BEIJING (AP)—A U.S.-funded broadcaster says a Tibetan teenager in Sichuan province has died in a fiery protest against Chinese oppression in Tibet, marking the third self-immolation in three days. Washingtonbased Radio Free Asia said in an emailed statement Tuesday that an 18-year-old identified as Dorje set himself ablaze Monday in Sichuan province's Aba prefecture. It quoted a Tibetan monk exiled in India, Kanyag Tsering, as saying he shouted "slogans against Chinese policies in Tibet" before immolating and died on the spot.

# World

# Riot police break up anti-**Putin protest in Moscow**



Russian police officers detain demonstrators attempting to hold an unsanctioned protest in Moscow, Monday, March 5, 2012.

MOSCOW (AP)—An attempt by Vladimir Putin's foes to protest his presidential election victory by occupying a Moscow square ended Monday with riot police quickly dispersing and detaining hundreds of demonstrators— a stark reminder of the challenges faced by Russia's opposition.

The harsh crackdown could fuel opposition anger and bring even bigger protests of Putin's 12 years in power and election to another six, but it also underlined the authorities' readiness to use force to crush such demonstrations.

The rally marked a change of tactics for the opposition, which has been looking for ways to maintain the momentum of its demonstrations that flared in December. Alexei Navalny, a popular blogger and one of the most charismatic protest leaders, was the first to suggest that supporters remain on Moscow's streets and squares to turn up the heat on Putin.

For Putin, the opposition move raised the specter of the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine, where demonstrators camped on Kiev's main square in massive protests that forced officials to throw out a fraudtainted election victory by the Kremlin-backed candidate.

The government's response Monday night was fast and decisive. Lines of officers in full riot gear marched into tree-lined Pushkin Square and forced protesters into waiting police buses. About 250 people were detained around the city, police said.

### Syrian refugees in Lebanon recount terror

QAA, Lebanon (AP)—Syrian refugees fleeing to neighboring Lebanon on Monday said they feared they would be slaughtered in their own homes as government forces hunted down opponents in a brutal offensive against the opposition stronghold of Homs.

With world pressure at a peak in the boiling crisis, U.S. Sen. John McCain called for airstrikes against Syria. He said the United States has a moral and strategic obligation to force out Assad and

"The only realistic way to do so is with foreign airpower," Mc-Cain said from the Senate floor. "The United States should lead an international effort to protect key population centers in Syria, especially in the north, through airstrikes on Assad's forces."

The U.N. refugee agency said Monday that as many as 2,000 Syrians crossed into Lebanon over the last two days to flee the violence in their country. In the Lebanese border village of

Qaa, families with women with small children came carrying only plastic bags filled with a few belongings.

"We fled the shelling and the strikes," said Hassana Abu Firas. She came with two families who had fled government shelling of their town al-Qusair, about 14 miles (22 kilometers) away, on the Syrian side.

The town is in Homs province, where the government has been waging a brutal offensive for the past month.

#### UN says 2011 disasters were costliest ever

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—

The economic cost of disasters in 2011 was the highest in history—with a pricetag of at least \$380 billion, mainly due to earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand, a U.N. envoy said Monday.

Margareta Wahlstrom, the secretary-general's special representative for disaster risk reduction, said the figure was two-thirds higher than the previous record in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck the southern United States.

In addition to the earthquakes,

Wahlstrom said major floods in Thailand and other countries caused extensive damage.

"The main message is that this is an increasing—very rapidly increasing trend with increasing economic losses," Wahlstrom said.

Despite the rising costs, she said, deaths from disasters are proportionally declining because countries are getting much better at instituting early warning systems and preparedness measures.

"But the economics of disasters is becoming a major threat to a number of countries," Wahlstrom said.

"We say today that 50 percent of the world's population is exposed to disaster risks because they live in the highly vulnerable areas," she said.

Wahlstrom said Japan has the highest economic exposure and the second-highest population exposure to potential disasters.

She praised Japan for its preparedness efforts but said there are lessons to be learned from the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

### Focus

### New light on drone war's death toll **SLAMABAD** (AP)—American drone strikes inside Pakistan are killing far fewer civilians than many in the country are led to believe, according to a rare on-theground investigation by The Associated Press of 10 of the deadliest The widespread perception in Pakistan that civilians, not

By SEBASTIAN ABBOT



In this Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010 file photo, villagers look at the body of a man during his funeral in Bannu, Pakistan. He was reportedly killed by a Dec. 27, 2010 U.S. drone attack in the Pakistani tribal area of Mir Ali along the Afghanistan border.

rorists were killed should be ashamed."

attacks in the past 18 months.

militants, are the principal victims—a

view that is fostered by leading right-

wing politicians, clerics and the fight-

ers themselves—fuels pervasive anti-

American sentiment and, some argue,

has swelled the ranks of al-Qaida and

But an AP reporter who spoke to

about 80 villagers at the sites of the 10

attacks in North Waziristan, the main

sanctuary for militants in Pakistan's

northwest tribal region along the Af-

ghan border, was told that a significant

majority of the dead were combatants.

in the attacks, about 70 percent—at

least 138—were militants. The remain-

ing 56 were either civilians or tribal

police, and 38 of them were killed in a single attack on March 17, 2011.

Excluding that strike, which inflicted one of the worst civilian death tolls

since the drone program started in Pakistan, nearly 90 percent of the people

But the civilian deaths in the covert

CIA-run program raise legal and ethical concerns, especially given Wash-

ington's reluctance to speak openly

about the strikes or compensate the

U.S. officials who were shown the

AP's findings rejected the accounts of

any civilian casualties but declined to

be quoted by name or make their own

The U.S. has carried out at least 280

attacks since 2004 in Pakistan's tribal

region. The area is dangerous and off-

limits to most reporters, and death tolls

from the strikes usually rely on reports

from Pakistani intelligence agents

The numbers gathered by the AP

turned out to be very close to those given

by Pakistani intelligence on the day of

each strike, the main difference being

that the officials often did not distinguish

Bush administration. President Barack

Obama has ramped them up signifi-

cantly since he took office but slowed

them down in recent months because

of increased tension between the U.S. and Pakistan caused by American air-

strikes that accidentally killed 24 Paki-

Pakistan responded by kicking the

U.S. out of a base used to service Ameri-

can drones, but the move is not expected

The AP study paints a much different

Syed Munawar Hasan, head of the

country's most powerful Islamist party,

Jamaat-e-Islami, recently claimed on

TV that the strikes "are killing nearly

Imran Khan, a popular opposition pol-

itician close to some right-wing Islamic

groups, addressed a cheering crowd last

April and said: "Those who lie to the na-

tion after every drone attack and say ter-

picture from that advanced by impor-

to affect the program significantly.

tant Pakistani opinion-shapers.

100 percent innocent people.'

stani soldiers in November.

Drone attacks began during the

between militants and civilians.

speaking on condition of anonymity.

families of innocent victims.

information public.

killed were militants, villagers said.

Indeed, the AP was told by the villagers that of at least 194 people killed

the Taliban.

He called for journalists and activists to go to the tribal region to see that the strikes were killing civilians, not militants.

Some analysts have been skeptical about carrying out on-the-ground investigations, assuming villagers would follow the militants' narrative of high civilian death tolls to avoid reprisals. But the AP study showed otherwise. While some villagers spoke on condition of anonymity saying they feared for their safety, others let their names be published.

Many knew the dead civilians personally. They also said one way to distinguish civilians from militants was by counting funerals, because the bodies of dead militants would usually be whisked away for burial elsewhere.

An attack near Miran Shah before dawn on Aug. 10, 2011, was one of six on the AP's list in which villagers said no civilians died.

A drone fired missiles at a large brick compound, killing at least 20 Afghan and Pakistani Taliban fighters, said Sajjad Ali, a local driver. The compound hit was known as a rest house for militants run by the Haqqani network, an Afghan group focused on fighting foreign troops in Afghanistan, he said.

The charred bodies were hastily buried in a graveyard more than a mile (2 kilometers) away, said Ali, who spoke to several people who attended the burial. Those who attended were not allowed to see the victims' faces, he said.

A second man who spoke to people who attended the burial confirmed Ali's account. He requested anonymity.

Before dawn on April 22, 2011, a drone fired missiles at the guest room of a large compound in Hasan Khel, a village in the mountains dominated by Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a Pakistani militant commander fighting foreign troops in Afghanistan.

The strike killed 25 people, including 20 militants, three children and two women, said Mamrez Gul, who owns a shop near the site of the attack. The militants were staying in the guest room, and the civilians were sleeping in a nearby room that was also destroyed by the blasts. A funeral was held for the women and children, but the bodies of the militants were taken away, said Mamrez Gul.

He said the women and children were relatives of the compound's owner, Gul Sharif, a militant commander loyal to Bahadur. He survived the attack, said two villagers, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A U.S. counterterrorism official in Washington said no women and children were observed in the compound before the strike. But Mamrez Gul, taxi driver Noor Habib Wazir and farmer Gul Paenda Khan said they attended the funeral of the women and children.

A strike on August 14, 2010, on a compound in Issori Boikhel village also illustrated the danger to civilians who live close to militants. The attack killed seven Pakistani Taliban fighters and seven tribesmen, said Shera Deen, the owner of

the compound that was hit. Safir Ullah, a student, corroborated the casualty count, as did a third villager who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Deen, who was not in the compound when it was attacked, said he lost two sons, a brother and three nephews, one of them 10 years old.

The seventh tribesman killed was 26-year-old Sohrab Khan, who was leading evening prayers for the Islamic holy month of Ramadan when the missiles struck, the villagers said. According to them, the Taliban fighters entered the compound to join the prayers, which would explain why they were bunched together with civilians.

graveyard with a wooden headstone indicating they were victims of a drone attack, the villagers said. The Taliban fighters were buried in a different cor-

The tribesmen were buried in a

ner of the same graveyard in an unmarked grave, they said.

U.S. counterterrorism officials disputed the death tolls and other details of some of the strikes, including the exact locations. One said the U.S. "had no reliable evidence" that civilians were killed in any of the strikes examined and questioned the reliability of villagers' accounts.

The officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because the drone program is classified.

Regarding the March 17, 2011, strike on Shiga village, the bloodiest attack investigated by the AP, U.S. officials familiar with drone operations said the group targeted was heavily armed, some of its members were connected to al-Qaida, and all "acted in a manner consistent with AQ (al-Qaida)linked militants."

But villagers and Pakistani officials said the missiles hit a community meeting, or jirga, held to resolve a mining dispute, killing four Pakistani Taliban fighters and 38 civilians and tribal police.

The militants were there because they controlled the area and any decision made would need their approval, said Gul Ahmed, a farmer.

Citing the number visible in the monitoring before and during the attack, U.S. officials said the total of dead was roughly half what villagers reported. But Ahmed said there were 42 caskets lined up at the funeral, and he provided the victims' names.

Christopher Rogers, a lawyer who has studied civilian casualties in Pakistan from drone attacks and other military action, said that regardless of casualty tolls, the U.S. still needed to make the program more transparent to prove it is complying with international laws on who may be targeted and measures to minimize the loss of innocent lives.

"The percentage of militants killed is an important piece of this, but it is one piece of a larger picture," said Rogers, who works at Open Society Foundations, an advocacy group in New York City. "The bigger issue here is the covert nature of the program, the complete lack of any transparency and accountability and the lack of information about how the U.S. distinguishes a militant from a civilian."

The drone program is so secretive that only last month did Obama publicly acknowledge its existence. He said the strikes "have not caused a huge number of civilian casualties," but gave

Rights organizations have been unable to verify the number of civilian casualties caused by drones because of the danger and difficulty of getting to sites.

One London-based group, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, has published drone casualty figures based on media reports, witness testimony and other information. It said strikes have killed between 2,383 and 3,109 people, of whom 464 to 815 were civilians. That implies the percentage of militants killed was roughly 70 to 80 percent. The group said an unidentified U.S. counterterrorism official insisted its civilian casualty figures were much too high.

A poll conducted in May 2011 by the U.S.-based Pew Research Center found that overwhelming majorities of Pakistanis who were aware of drone strikes said they were a bad thing and killed too many innocents. Pakistani officials regularly criticize the strikes as violations of the country's sovereignty, but there has long been some level of Pakistani acquiescence or help in the program.

Pakistani intelligence officials said a suspected U.S. drone crashed Saturday near Mir Ali, one of the main towns in North Waziristan, and caught fire after hitting the ground. The officials said the drone was believed to have crashed because of technical problems.

A U.S. official denied reports that the drone was shot down. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the classified program.

Associated Press writer Zarar Khan in *Islamabad contributed to this report.* 

# Campus Life

# Grace Christian students win big in two art contests

Six Grace Christian Academy students won in two art contests sponsored by different government agencies.

Second-graders Karina Dilse, Clerisse Dacumos, and Richard Steele won first, second, and third place respectively in the K-2 category for the 2012 Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lunar calendar poster contest sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

The theme of the competition was "Climate Change Impacts on the Islands." The theme focused on how indigenous knowledge and practices can prepare the community to adapt and survive the impacts of climate change.



The students' winning art-

The banquet and awarding

of prizes was held at the Hibis-

cus Hall, Fiesta Resort and Spa

Saipan on Monday, March 5,

2012. The winners were accom-

panied by their art teacher, Esther

works were featured in the 2012

Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lu-

nar Calendar.

The GCA Energy Division 2012 Calendar poster contest winners pose with art teacher Esther Manzano, GCA principal Marsha Owens, and officers from the Energy Division on their campus visit to award the win-



The GCA 2012 Lunar Calendar poster contest winners pose beside their winning posters with their 2nd grade teacher, Rachel Epperson, art teacher Esther Manzano, and GCA principal Marsha Owens at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan before the awarding of prizes.

Manzano, 2nd grade homeroom teacher Rachel Epperson, and GCA principal Marsha Owens.

Also, three sixth grade students won in the Energy Calendar Poster Contest sponsored by the CNMI Energy Division of the Department of Public Works with the theme, "Turning works into Action. Turn Action into the winning students. (GCA)

Results.'

The winning posters of Te' Inah Blas Diaz, Hyeong Cham Im, and Peggy Aizell Pixley were published in the 2012 Energy Division Calendar. Officers from the Energy Division visited the winning schools and awarded energy saving kits and gift certificates to

### 3 students dominate GES Mallard Chef recipe contest



Judges evaluate the entries for the Garapan Elementary School's first ever "Mallard Chef" Recipe Contest.

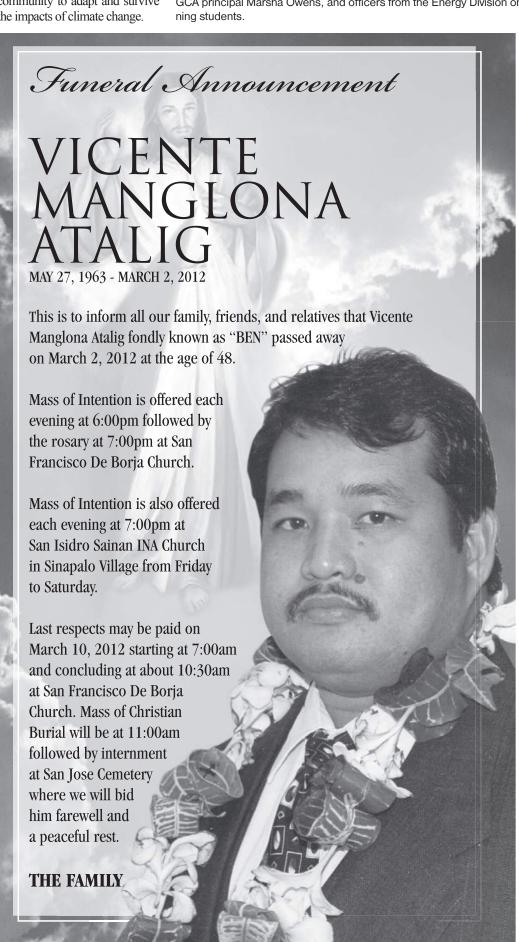
Garapan Elementary School held its first ever "Mallard Chef" Recipe Contest on Feb. 10. School contest organizers Claire Dela Cruz and Lori Terre saw the potential of the school's future chefs and decided to organize a recipe contest to give the students the opportunity to show their creativity and talent in cooking and creating delicious and unique dishes and beverages. Interested students entered an array of recipes ranging from veggie smoothies to sandwiches, salads, frozen treats, and fruity pancakes. Students were also given the option to enter their recipes as an individual chef or by a team of three chefs.

Judges from the school and community were invited to taste the recipes. Judges included parents, students, school administrators, and teachers. The recipes were judged on presentation and visual appeal, taste, recipe content, and overall use of the main fruit ingredient. Each grade level cluster had five fruits to choose from. The kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade cluster had to choose from banana, papaya, mountain apple, or star fruit. The 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade cluster had to choose pineapple, guava, sweetsop, tangerine, or watermelon.

Students, teachers and parents were given one week to come up with their recipe, vote in their own class for their top recipes that would be entered into the school level competition.

The Mallard Chef Recipe Contest winners were the chef team of Mica Camacho and Michael Alovera with the winning recipe Sweet Mashed Potato with Pineapple and Mango Salsa for the 4th to 6th grade cluster. For the kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade cluster, chef Ryan Kang dominated with his Thai Papaya Salad. Only one of the recipes will be entered in the PSS-wide competition to be held

in March. The contest was an overall success as a result of the continued support and dedication of GES parents, teachers, administrators, community partners, and most especially the students. The students had an amazing time creating their dishes and presenting them to the judges. Our students now understand that there is more to learning than just opening a book, writing paragraphs, or putting on a play. Opening the door to creativity and having fun is what we try to instill in our students. The Mallard Chef Recipe Contest allowed our students to think outside the classroom and into the kitchen. (PR)



SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012 19

# Life & Style

# Comic impressionist Steve Bridges dies in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Impressionist Steve Bridges, who used prosthetics and wigs to turn into presidents and laughs to make a living, was found dead at his home, his manager said Monday. He was 48.

Bridges returned from China on Feb. 23 and complained to friends of "super jet lag," manager Randy Nolen said.

Bridges' maid found the comic dead about 9:30 a.m. Saturday in his Los Angeles home, Nolen said.

It appeared that he died of natural causes, but an autopsy will be conducted, said Craig Harvey, chief of operations for the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

Bridges' George W. Bush impression made him a regular on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" and earned him an invitation to the White House in 2003.

In 2006, Bridges joined Bush in a comic routine at the 2006 White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington, D.C., and at a Ford's Theatre benefit.



In this April 29, 2006 file photo, President Bush, left, and Steve Bridges, a comedian and President Bush look alike, gestures during the White House Correspondents' Association's 92nd annual awards dinner in Washington. Bridges, best known for impersonating former President George W. Bush, has died at home in Los Angeles.

Nolen said Bush called Bridges' brother, Phillip, on Monday and offered condolences.

"Steve was not only a funny man, but a kind and decent human being. My heartfelt sympathies go out to his parents, his siblings, and his entire family," Bush told The Associated Press through spokesman Freddy Ford.

"We had a great 10-year run,"

Nolen said. "He went to the White House, the Oval Office, toured with Barbra Streisand and was a regular on the 'Tonight Show' for almost eight years.'

Bridges became Barack Obama, Bill Clinton or Bush for his most popular shows.

The makeup and prosthetics used for Bush and Clinton were designed by Kevin Haney, who

won an Academy Award for aging Dan Aykroyd in "Driving Miss Daisy." Obama was done by Kazu Tsuji, who designed Jim Carrey's Grinch in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Mari Enyart was Bridges' makeup artist.

"From the neck up, everything but his teeth was covered in a prosthetic piece of some sort," Nolen said about the impersonations of presidents. "It was as extensive, as good and as complicated as anything you would see in a motion picture."

It took nearly four hours to apply the Obama makeup and nearly three hours to do Bush and Clinton. Close attention was paid to age marks and freckles on his hands because

they were so visible, especially if a skit was being filmed.

Bridges had been scheduled to do three free shows on March 13, 14 and 15 for the Indian Wells Rotary Club to help raise money for students who wanted to go to college. Because of the time it took to get ready, he was going to be a different president each night.

### 2 UK accused of stealing Jackson music from Sony

LONDON (AP)—Two men how much music was stolen have been charged in Britain with hacking into Sony Music's computers and stealing music, the company and British police said Monday. A person familiar with the situation said the hackers had obtained unreleased Michael Jackson tracks.

Sony Music Entertainment spokeswoman Liz Young said the company noticed a breach of its systems in May, "and immediately took steps to secure the site and notify authorities. As a result, the two suspects were arrested."

She said no customer data were compromised in the attack on the company's internal music-sharing system.

Sony would not confirm

or what artists were involved. But a person familiar with the situation, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said Monday that the suspects were Jackson fans and had taken his music, including unreleased material.

The year after the King of Pop's 2009 death, Sony signed a 7-year deal with his estate, worth up to \$250 million, to sell his unreleased recordings.

Britain's Serious Organized Crime Agency said two suspects were arrested in May and charged in September with computer misuse and copyright offenses.

James Marks, 26, and James McCormick, 25, appeared at Leicester Crown Court in central England on Friday and pleaded not guilty. They were freed on bail and are due to stand trial in January.

The case is not believed to be linked to Anonymous or Lulz Security— loose-knit hackers' collectives, broadly sympathetic to the WikiLeaks' secretspilling site—who have targeted government and corporate websites around the world.

Last year, hackers targeted Sony Playstation and Sony Online Entertainment networks, compromising personal information, email addresses and the security of millions of users accounts. At the time, Lulz Security claimed responsibility for the hack.

### Children's publisher developing app for e-reading

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A leading publisher of children's books is taking a big step into the electronic market.

Scholastic Inc. is developing an app called Storia, which includes around 1,300 e-books and multimedia e-books that can be bought directly from the publisher or from retailers. Such favorite picture series as "Clifford the Big Red Dog" and "Ready, Freddy!" will be in digital format for the first time. The app also will feature games, quizzes, interactive stories, an e-dictionary and a virtual book shelf that kids can organize.

Scholastic Media president Deborah Forte says the idea is to make e-books "more accessible and more relevant "

A beta version will become available Tuesday for teachers and families who buy through the Scholastic Book Clubs and other Scholastic sales channels. Storia is expected to launch for the general public in the fall, when it should have more than 2,000 books.

Forte said Scholastic sees the app "as a way to support reading and something that's just plain fun."

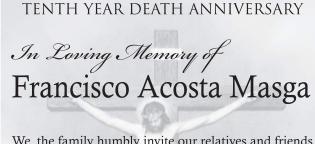
The app is free and will be available first at scholastic.com/ storia, then on iTunes later this month. Those who download the app will get five free books, including two multimedia selections. Forte says the e-books should range in price from \$1.95 to \$20.

Kids are still well behind in the e-book race, and before this week Scholastic had apps for only a handful of books. Vice president for business development Jeff Mathews says that e-books are around 5 percent of sales for Scholastic children's books, a fraction of the percentage many publishers report for adult books. Mathews and Forte cite the relative expense of a Kindle or Nook e-book reading device, even as they drop under \$100, as a reason few kids have them. They also say that the typical e-book device is not designed for young people.

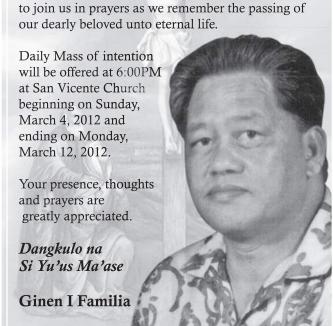
"The devices, the reading ex-

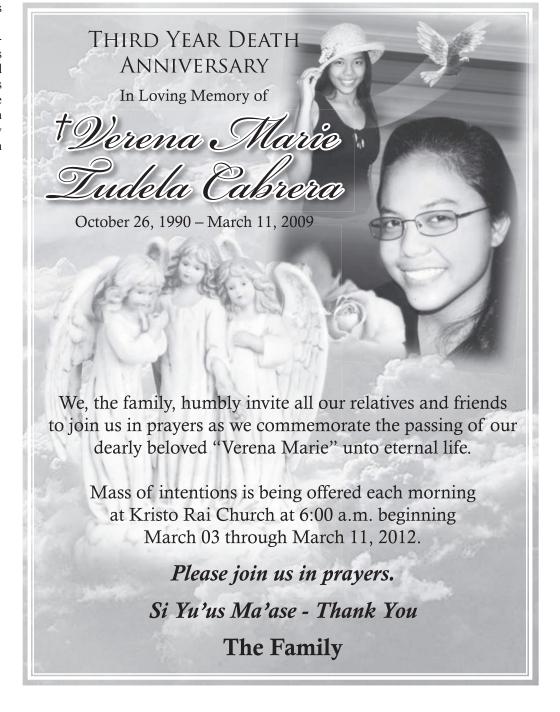
perience and the ecosystems are showcasing all manners of books, magazines and videos," Forte says. "We are dedicated to kids and reading.'

Storia is intended for children ages 3-14, and Forte says that the app is carefully tailored for each age, whether the books themselves or the difficulty of the quizzes. Parents can track which books their kids are reading, how long they read them and which new words they learned.



We, the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we remember the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.





# Rush Limbaugh advertisers keep heading for the exits

Rush Limbaugh's mouth is taking a bite out of his wallet.

Nine advertisers and a radio station in Hawaii dropped his show after he called a law student a "slut" and a "prostitute."

One of the most popular radio shows in the country on Monday lost advertisers including AOL Inc. and Tax Resolution

The tax firm helps people who have disputes with the IRS. It spends some \$9 million a year on radio advertising, according to ratings firm Nielsen, and its website carries endorsement from conservative talk radio personalities Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, as well as Limbaugh himself.

"You don't need to fight this fight alone," Limbaugh is quoted as saying on the Tax Resolution site. His endorsement was still up on Tax Resolution's site on Monday afternoon.

CEO Michael Rozbruch said the statement about dropping Limbaugh was easily issued but changing the website will require a meeting later in the week.

Limbaugh apologized over the weekend for his comments about Georgetown law student Sandra Fluke after she testified to congressional Democrats that her Jesuit college's health plan should cover her birth control.

KPUA, an AM station in Hilo, Hawaii, said it is dropping Limbaugh's show immediately.

The statement by station owner New West said the Limbaugh incident "crossed a line of decency" and didn't live up to the station's standards.

"We are strong believers in the First Amendment and have recognized Mr. Limbaugh's right to express opinions that often times



Georgetown University law student and activist Sandra Fluke, center, speaks as co-hosts Joy Behar, left, and Sherri Shepherd speak during an appearance on the daytime talk show, "The View," Monday, March 5, 2012 in New York.

differ from our own, but it has never been our goal to allow our station to be used for personal attacks and intolerance," station owner New West said.

Limbaugh joked on Monday that he got a busy signal when he called his show because of the advertisers who are abandoning it.

Clear Channel's Premiere Radio Net-Limbaugh works Inc. hosts Limbaugh's show. His on-air contract runs through 2016.

Premiere Radio said in a statement Monday that it respects Limbaugh's right to express his opinions. It said that, "in an attempt at absurdist humor to illustrate his political point, Mr.

Limbaugh used words that unfortunately distracted from the message he was trying to convey."

The company said Limbaugh did the right thing by "express-

> ing regret for his choice of words and offering his sincere and heartfelt apology to Ms. Fluke.'

> Fluke said Monday that Limbaugh's apology changes nothing and that Americans have to decide whether

to support companies that continue to advertise on his program.

The advertisers that have backed away from Limbaugh's program represent a broad range of industries, from technology to financial services to retailers. AOL, an Internet portal

that runs the TechCrunch blog and the Huffington Post, said Monday that Limbaugh's comments "are not in line with our values."

Other companies that say they have left the show include flower delivery service ProFlowers, mortgage lender Quicken Loans, the maker of Sleep Number beds, mattress retailer Sleep Train, software maker Citrix Systems Inc., online data backup service provider Carbonite and online legal document services company LegalZoom.

Allstate Corp. said it bought ads on Limbaugh's show by accident.

The insurer at first told people who asked on Monday that it didn't buy ads on Limbaugh's

show. But it said on Facebook that it learned during the day that its ads actually were running with the program. It said an advertising vendor had bought the ads in error and its advertising strategy never included ads on Limbaugh's show.

Allstate said on Facebook that it regretted "providing mistaken information" about its ads and has asked the media buying firm to stop advertising on Limbaugh's show "in keeping with our original advertising plans and strategies."

Clear Channel Media and Entertainment operates more than 850 radio stations in the U.S., and Premiere says it's the largest radio content provider in the country, syndicating programs to more than 5,000 affiliate stations.

Clear Channel has declined to say how much revenue it stands to lose from advertiser defections. Its parent company was taken private in 2008.

### 'Desperate Housewives' creator describes star spat

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The beautiful actress who could creator of "Desperate Housewives" told jurors Monday he thought he had permission to tap the head of Nicollette Sheridan but acknowledged the incident created a strained and awkward dynamic with an actress he considered smart and funny.

Marc Cherry testified during Sheridan's wrongful termination trial that by the time he hit Sheridan in Sept. 2008—he calls it a tap for artistic direction, she contends it was a wallop—he had already received permission to kill off her character in the script.

Those plans only moved forward after an investigation by ABC, which airs "Desperate Housewives," cleared him of wrongdoing despite officials never interviewing him or Sheridan about their dispute. He testified that he told series stars Eva Longoria and Felicity Huffman that he intended to kill off the character Edie Britt months before he told Sheridan.

Much of Cherry's testimony corroborates Sheridan's ver-

sion of events, although the actress has told jurors she never gave permission for the show's creator to touch her, much less strike her in a way that she said left her stunned. The incident occurred on

the show's set as the actress and Cherry discussed her lines for a scene that Sheridan didn't feel had enough comedy.

"I didn't need permission," Cherry said. "Permission was understood."

He said he wanted the actress to have some physical interaction with her onscreen husband in the scene and acknowledged that during a deposition he testified that he "resorted to demonstration to get my point across." In the scene, Sheridan's character hits her husband with a magazine and tickles him, but doesn't strike his head.

"I tapped her head," Cherry said Monday.

He rejected the idea that he struck Sheridan hard and was upset that people thought he hit a woman. He said he regarded Sheridan as a rare talent: a

pull off comedy.

Sheridan, who is seeking more than \$6 million, told jurors last week the incident rattled her. "It was humiliating," Sheridan told the jury last week. "It was demeaning. It was unfathomable to me that I had just been hit by my boss."

Cherry was flustered at times during questioning by Sheridan's attorney Monday, but became more comfortable as his own attorney asked him to describe how he developed "Housewives" after a conversation with his mother more than a decade ago. The idea grew out of watching a trial about a mother who drowned her child, Cherry said, and his mother's revelation that she had felt moments of desperation and anger.

"I've always thought of my mom as the perfect wife and mother," he told the jury, adding that he wanted to explore the secret lives and desires of women when he created "Desperate Housewives."



Sheridan

Housewives," glossy prime-time comedy/soap opera with an ensemble cast including Teri Hatcher and Longoria, made a popculture and ratings splash when it pre-

"Desperate

miered in 2004 but has seen its audience dwindle. It is in its last season.

Cherry testified that he had three reasons for killing off Britt—creative, cost-cutting, and complaints about Sheridan's behavior. He acknowledged there wasn't any documentation about the actress' alleged bad behavior, which included claims of tardiness, forgetting lines and treating a prop person rudely.

Mark Baute, Sheridan's attorney, has noted that Sheridan's contract was renewed just days after the May 2008 meeting during which Cherry claims he was given permission to fire the actress. That renewal decision meant the actress' pay was bumped to \$175,000 per episode and she received a full share of profits from the series.

### Condoms now required for Los Angeles porn actors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actors in many of the adult films made in the nation's porn capital must use condoms under a law that took effect Monday, but the prophylactic police aren't yet on the case.

How they will enforce such a regulation once they do begin enforcement is anyone's guess.

In Los Angeles, where an estimated 90 percent of the country's porn films are made, city officials and industry leaders are trying to settle on a way to ensure that there's more safe sex on the set. Some say health care professionals should be present during a shoot to make sure actors use condoms.

"Today really is a milestone in the advance of health and safety for these adult filmmakers," said Ged Kenslea, spokesman for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which lobbied for years for the measure.

When the City Council passed the law in January, it gave police, the city attorney, the porn industry and others six months to recommend the best way to enforce the measure. They have roughly four months left.

Until then, it's unclear whether police or health officials will start showing up at shoots. On Monday, city attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan said he didn't know the status of enforcement.

To shoot a movie outside of a studio, the law requires a film permit and condom use. The larger porn companies that make the movies on studio soundstages don't need permits and therefore are exempt from the condom requirement. The companies, however, would need one if they went to a house in a neighborhood to shoot a scene.

The question is whether smaller companies, in which only a handful of people show up at a house, usually in the city's San Fernando Valley, quickly make a movie in a day or two and then move on, will pay any attention.

The head of one of the industry's largest filmmakers said he hadn't been approached about working out how the ordinance would work and how the city would deal with violators.

"We assumed we would be approached but we have not been," said Steven Hirsch, chief executive and co-founder of the Vivid Entertainment Group. Hirsch said about 90 percent of Vivid's film shoots are conducted either in its own studio or outside the city.

But he quickly added that his company would immediately begin complying with the law and require that actors use condoms on any film shoots taking place outside a studio in Los Angeles.

Kenslea, the spokesman for the AIDS health care group, said he's heard that, although as many 50,000 porn films a year are made in Los Angeles, only about 200 permits a month are issued by the city to film them.

"Just because they don't take out permits does not mean there shouldn't be regulations," he said.

Industry officials say the law isn't needed and that their audiences find the use of condoms a turnoff. They said the industry's own requirement, that actors be tested for sexually transmitted diseases every 30 days, is sufficient. Hirsch and others have pointed out that there hasn't been a case of HIV linked directly to the making of a porn film since 2004.

Kenslea and other advocates of using condoms say there have been nine reported cases of HIV involving porn actors since 2004. They said those cases highlight the ever-present risk that someone can acquire the virus in their private life and then infect others on set.

When it comes to enforcement, Kenslea said, his organization is pushing for the city to use health care professionals, perhaps from a nursing agency, to conduct spot checks. The cost of the inspections would be paid out of fees the filmmakers would pay when applying for permits. The foundation has proposed a fee of \$50 to \$75.

Filmmakers who are caught violating the requirement would be refused future permits.

Meanwhile, his group is trying to get a measure on the November ballot that would require that Los Angeles County adopt a similar but tougher measure mandating a health permit similar to the ones for nail and hair salons. Such an ordinance would cover more than 80 other cities that fall within the county.

### UK's Tate buys 8M Ai Weiwei sunflower seeds

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Tate gallery has bought a work by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei made up of 8 million porcelain sunflower seeds—a portion of the 100 million he brought to London in 2010.

Tate said Monday that it had purchased "Sunflower Seeds 2010"-10 cubic meters (13 cubic yards) of seeds, hand-crafted by Chinese artisans, which can be displayed either as a conical pile or as a square or rectangular bed.

The gallery did not disclose the price. Last year Sotheby's auction house sold a 100 kilogram (220 pound) bag of the seeds for 350,000 pounds (\$550,000).

In 2010, Ai covered the floor of a 1,000 sq. meter (10,000 sq. foot) hall at London's Tate Modern with almost 100 million of the seeds. Visitors were initially invited to walk or lie on them, but after a few days the ceramic dust was judged a health hazard and the exhibit was cordoned off.

### **Backstreet Boy reports** \$120,000 jewelry theft

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (AP)—A member of the Backstreet Boys pop music group tells police that \$120,000 in jewelry was stolen from a Stone

Mountain hotel where he and his wife were staying.

Brian Littrell tells WSB-TV they were leaving Stone Mountain Park outside Atlanta when they realized the jewelry had been left on a nightstand in their hotel room. He said that when they returned to the hotel to retrieve the items, they were gone.

Leighanne Littrell says the \$120,000 in jewelry included her engagement ring valued at \$110,000.

WSB reports that police were at the hotel Sunday night. It wasn't immediately clear when the reported theft occurred.



In this Monday, Oct. 11, 2010 file photo Chinese artist Ai Weiwei poses with some seeds from his art installation 'Sunflower Seeds' in London.

sun and Chinese people as sun-

flowers turning toward him.

It still proved a hugely popular show. The gallery said the seeds, a common Chinese street snack, represented friendship and compassion, raised questions of individualism and evoked the enforced conformity of the Cultural Revolution, when propaganda posters

The bearded and burly Ai, 54, has exhibited widely in Eu-

rope and the United States and last year was named the world's most powerful artist by Britain's Art Review magazine.

He helped design the futuristic depicted Chairman Mao as the Bird's Nest stadium for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but later soured on the event.

His social activism has brought him into conflict with the Beijing authorities. In 2011 he was detained for almost three months during a wider crackdown on dissent, and has since been investigated for tax evasion.

### 'Game of Thrones' among new video releases

By RICH HELDENFELS

One of the bigger events on TV this spring will be the second season of HBO's "Game of Thrones," which begins April 1. You can see why that is cause for celebration Tuesday, when the first season appears in detailed DVD and Blu-ray sets from HBO Home Entertainment.

The first season was based on the book "A Game of Thrones" from the multi-volume saga "A Song of Ice and Fire" by the writer George R.R. Martin. A blend of conflict,

sex, magic, swordplay and even dragons, the books draw you into their complex, epic story and eversurprising characters for page after page. I have read the first two books and have the third standing by; I held off from starting it because I had other commitments looming and knew I would not keep up with them if I let myself get drawn back into Martin's tale.

The first TV season proved largely up to the demands of Martin's text over 10 episodes, both in maintaining his tone and the sense of mystery pervading the novel, and in letting the characters be as flawed as Martin wanted. And the DVD and Blu-ray packages (\$59.99 and \$79.99, respectively) add to the pleasure by packing in a lot of additional information, including a guide to the families and lands featured in the series, a halfhour making-of piece, a discussion of how the book was adapted for the screen, the actors talking about their characters and seven audio commentaries.

The content can be raw (this is, after all, HBO) but the storytelling is marvelous.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### ALA announces awards for adult fiction, nonfiction

**NEW YORK** (AP) — The sponsors of the top prizes in children's literature have established two awards for grown-up fiction. The American Library Association announced Monday that the first Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence, given for the year's best adult fiction and nonfiction, will be awarded when the association meets in June for its annual conference. Each winning author receives \$5,000, with the prizes funded by the Carnegie Corporation. The first selection committee will be chaired by NPR commentator and former librarian Nancy Pearl. The ALA has long sponsored the John Newbery medal, for best children's story, and the Randolph Caldecott medal, for best illustration.

### Stage musical of 'Animal House' being developed NEW YORK (AP)—Toga, toga! Universal

Pictures Stage Productions said Monday that it's developing a stage musical based on its classic college comedy "National Lampoon's Animal House." "Animal House: The Musi-

cal" will feature an original score by the band Barenaked Ladies, with direction and choreography by Tony Award winner Casey Nicholaw, who also directed "The Book of Mormon" and "The Drowsy Chaperone." Michael Mitnick will write the libretto for the stage production. The 1978 film's cast included John Belushi, Tom Hulce, Bruce McGill, Tim Matheson, Stephen Furst and Karen Allen. It explored how one frat house, Delta Tau Chi, made sloth and debauchery look cool.

Current TV adding 2 morning talk shows to lineup

NEW YORK (AP)—Current TV is launching a morning talk block with live simulcasts of the radio programs "The Bill Press Show" and "The Stephanie Miller Show." The TV version of Press' nationally syndicated radio program will air weekdays from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Eastern time. The TV simulcast of Miller's show will follow from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time. The program block will begin this Spring, the left-leaning political TV network announced Monday. A liberal commentator, Press is a veteran of CNN's "Crossfire" and "The Spin Room." Miller is a liberal talk-show host and comedian. Current TV chairman Al Gore says the pair will provide "smart, insightful news analysis." The new programs join Current's prime-time slate anchored by "Countdown with Keith Olbermann."

### In Israel, covert Dubai slaying is comedy fodder

- Israeli and French filmmakers are making a comedy centered on the assassination of a Hamas operative in Dubai. Mahmoud al-Mabhouh died in January 2010 when hitmen entered his Dubai hotel room. Dubai police suspected Israel's Mossad spy agency, but never proved it. The complex operation, in which several disguised agents were caught on hotel cameras, remains unsolved. Israeli producer Michael Sharfshtein and French partner Manuel Munz are preparing to shoot a \$5.2 million comedy called "Kidon," the supposed name of the Mossad's assassination department. The film posits that French and Israeli small-time criminals killed al-Mabhouh and framed the Mossad. Munz said Monday the film offers a suggestion of what happened in the Mabhouh operation, which remains shrouded in mystery.

### Forgiveness can bring love into a world of uncertainty

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** Several years ago you printed a poem about forgiveness in your column. It described very well the benefits of the practice, and it was accompanied by a sort of "forgiveness schedule" for every day of the week.

I clipped the column and saved it, but over



time I seem to have lost it. Could you please run this piece again?

DANIELA IN TORONTO

DEAR DANIELA: I'm glad to oblige. The poem you have requested, "Decide to Forgive," was written by the late Robert Muller, former assistant secretarygeneral of the United Nations. Now, with so much turmoil going on in the nation and in the world, its sentiments are particularly relevant.

This poem is part of a collection of letters, poems and essays that are collected in my booklet "Keepers" because so many Dear Abby readers had clipped them and continue to request that they be reprinted. Here is the poem you have requested:

DECIDE TO FORGIVE Decide to forgive

For resentment is negative

Resentment is poisonous

Resentment diminishes and devours the self.

Be the first to forgive,

To smile and to take the first step

And you will see happiness bloom

On the face of your human brother or sister.

Be always the first Do not wait for others to forgive

For by forgiving

You become the master of fate

The fashioner of life

A doer of miracles.

To forgive is the highest,

Most beautiful form of love.

In return you will receive

Untold peace and happiness.

And here is the program for achieving a truly

forgiving heart:

SUNDAY: Forgive yourself.

MONDAY: Forgive your family.

TUESDAY: Forgive your friends and associates. WEDNESDAY: Forgive across economic lines

within your own nation.

THURSDAY: Forgive across cultural lines

within your own nation.

FRIDAY: Forgive across political lines within your

SATURDAY: Forgive other nations.

Only the brave know how to forgive.

A coward never forgives.

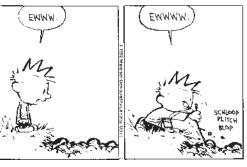
*It is not in his nature.* 

Since I cannot reprint the continual avalanche of requests I receive for reprints, for those who desire them, my "Keepers" booklet can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Many people have told me it makes a welcome gift for newlyweds, new parents, animal lovers, those who are grieving, and anyone who is recovering from an illness because it's a quick and easy read, and filled with wisdom and humor on a wide variety of topics.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes





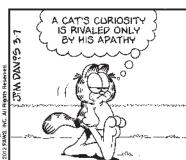


By Bill Waterson

### **Garfield**®







### Adam@home



### The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis















#### By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD **ACROSS** 26 Small **DOWN** 14 "Finding 1 Punctua-1 Anima-Nemo" pie tion 27 In favor tion character of 15 Virgo frame marks 28 Paces 4 "Unde-2 Rewrite. neighbor niably" 30 Glutton maybe 19 Orlando 33 Behaving 3 Sideways 7 Pop 4 Pleasure 20 Banned 8 Knighted 36 Throw off the pesticide women boat 10 Dark 5 Host 21 Got up tracks 37 Particular 11 Gather 6 Belgrade 22 Play out, **13** Paid occasion native as fishing 16 Possess 38 Type of 7 Winter line 17 66, for forecast 23 Maze cotton example thread 8 Fact option 18 Dead 39 Tittle 9 Swain 24 "- and 40 That 10 Venusian Old Lace' heat 19 "Green vessel? 25 Sala woman Acres\* 41 Book-12 Drop mander setting keeper 26 Piece of 20 Old (Abbr.) sound info on a fogy marquee Solution time: 21 mins. 21 2009 28 Grit your teeth news **29** Spry making 30 1492 pilot, familiarly craft 23 San 31 Erstwhile Diego Peruvian athlete 32 "Gosh!"

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Yesterday's answer 3-7

25 Sicilian

spouter

34 Rainbow

35 Circle

For answers to today's crossword, call. 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Laura** Prepon, 32; Jenna Fischer, 38; Rachel Weisz, 42; Bryan Cranston, 56.

Happy Birthday: Focus on what needs to be done to make your relationships better. Nurture what's important to you and protect what you've worked so hard to acquire. Stand up and speak out to positively affect the outcome of any situation you face. Strive for perfection, precision and patience, and you will raise your profile. Your numbers are 6, 15, 17, 22, 26, 32, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Forget about what you cannot change right now and focus on work, advancement or getting a job. Practicality will be required if you want to maintain your status quo. Enthusiasm will be well-received. ���

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a suggestion, take on a challenge or try something new. Most of all, be a participant. Networking, socializing and connecting with others will bring stellar results and can also enhance your love life. Live in the moment. OOOOO

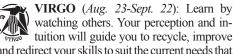
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let your emotions take over, causing an argument between you and someone you love. Keep things in perspective and you will find a solution to any problem you face. Working

alongside others is the way to go. •• CANCER (June 21-July 22): Worrying about a change of plans is futile. You are better off working with whatever you are given and doing the best you can. Show

strength and courage when making personal decisions and you'll reap the rewards. Love is highlighted. **2000** 



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put an idea into motion and don't look back. It's up to you to do the legwork and to demonstrate what you can offer. Your unique presentation will lead to an interesting new way to bring in cash. OOO



watching others. Your perception and intuition will guide you to recycle, improve and redirect your skills to suit the current needs that are growing in your community. Romance is in the stars, along with travel and socializing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't keep secrets regarding money matters, health or a commitment or contract you are involved in. You have to clear the air if you want to be able to make the moves most beneficial to you. A change of mind is likely. •••



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let uncertainty ruin your plans. Move full speed ahead and let everyone see how capable you are when faced with change. Home improvements will help your personal relationship and enable you to expand a service you offer. OOOO



By Dave Green

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts to yourself and don't expect favors. You are best to go it alone and to make whatever changes are necessary to reach your goal. An unexpected change at home will be quite beneficial.

EUGENIA

IN ASTROLOGY COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Examine your position and you will come up with a plan that will benefit you financially, physically and romantically. A change to the way you live will lead to a better relationship with the people in your life who count. OOOOO

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more effort into relationships at work and home. Avoid overdoing it in any way, shape or form. Discipline will be the key to getting ahead. A change in your routine or the way you earn your living looks promising. •••

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be drawn to highly energetic people capable of making a difference in your life. A partnership can help you market what you have to offer with positive results. Compatibility coupled with equality will make your pursuit successful.

Birthday Baby: You are a dedicated and loyal perfectionist. Your determination is relentless. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

Conceptis Sudoku

Difficulty Level ★★★

5 8 3 1 6 9 2 4 2 3 2 7 8 6 3 2 4 5 6 9 3 9 4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

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6	2	4	5	1	9	7	3	8		
7	8	5	3	4	2	1	9	6		
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All city basel ** 75e										

	,									
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8	6	7	9	5	4	3	1	2		
All city basel ** 75e										

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#### By DAVID Wonderword OUELLET

PELVIS STRUCTURE

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find then and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftower letters read the Wigner deputs of

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Anatomical, Animals, Bones, Brim, Carry, Cavity, Circular, Coccyx, Crest, Development, Even, Extends, Hips, Humans, Joints, Legs, Ligaments, Movement, Moves, Muscles, Os Coxa, Posture, Rear, Region, Robust, Rotation, Sacrum, Secure, Size, Skeleton, Solid, Spine, Stable, Strong, Support, Symmetrical, Tendons, Torso, Tract, Trunk, Walking, Weight Yesterday's Answer: Clinic

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
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<ul> <li>3-Liner with picture</li> </ul>	\$24	\$42
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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



# NFL bounties amount to incentive system run amok

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



To Hall of Fame defensive back Ronnie Lott, the thousands of dollars New Orleans

Saints players were paid under their bounty system from 2009-11 is not all that different from the helmet stickers handed out at lower levels of the game.

Little rewards for big plays are as much a part of football as runs and passes.

"I never played the game to take away somebody's livelihood. Have I hurt people? Yes. I got paid to make interceptions. I got paid to cause fumbles. And I got paid to make big hits," said Lott, who was with the 49ers, Raiders and Jets during his NFL career from 1981-94.

"It goes back to when I was 10. Somebody said that if you did one of those things, you would get a sticker on your helmet. In college, they gave you that recognition if you did well," Lott said in a telephone interview Monday. "So, no. I'm not really surprised by it."

Nor, it seems, should anyone.

"The fact that guys in a football locker room would talk about and reward each other when they take one of their opponents out of the gamethat's not surprising at all. It probably happens from the high school level on up. This is not an odd thing. Now the cash rewards and the coach approval? That formalizes it and takes it to another level," said Jay Coakley, professor emeritus in the sociology department at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

"But we shouldn't be surprised at all that the football culture would give rise to someone wanting to take another player out, even if there weren't something extra on the line," Coakley added. "That's just obvious."

Commissioner Roger Goodell summoned former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams to meet with NFL investigators Monday to discuss whether he also offered bounties while working for other teams. Goodell was not at the meeting.

After the league made its investigation public Friday, Williams admitted to, and apologized for, running a bounty pool of up to \$50,000 over the last three seasons, rewarding players for knocking targeted opponents out of games. The league now wants to know whether Williams-who recently left the Saints to become defensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams—ran a similar scheme while a head coach or assistant with the Titans, Redskins, Jaguars and Bills.

Current Redskins linebacker Lorenzo Alexander, who played under Williams



In this Jan. 22, 1983, file photo, Dallas Cowboys Tony Dorsett takes a hard hit and fumbles the ball in first quarter of an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Washington.

in Washington, said a player could get rewarded for knocking a player out of a game with a clean hit, but only after the fact-not as a pre-planned "bounty." Sometimes players wrote each other checks for such plays.

"It wasn't always Coach Williams" who paid up, Alexander said.

Several players described their profession as ripe for this to happen: a violent workplace with plenty of cash floating around.

"Everybody knows those things have been around. Some people just unfortunately got caught with their hand in Turley said. the cookie jar," said Kyle Turley, an offensive lineman from 1998-07 for the Saints, Rams and Chiefs and one of hundreds of former players who are plaintiffs in concussion-related lawsuits against the league. "It happens a lot on special teams, where they prey on those young guys—the 'expendables' as I like to call them—who want some extra money or want to prove their worth so they can stick around longer."

Think of it as an incentive system run amok.

"A lot of business firms try that sort of thing, whether it's for rewarding high performance among employees or sales quotes or innovations," University of Chicago sports economist Allen Sanderson said.

Several players have said the Saints weren't the only team with such a system. Others have described extra cash doled out for interceptions or fumbles or blocked kicks; that is against NFL rules, too. Turley recalled contributing to such funds himself, and described seeing an assistant coach—he wouldn't say who-open a briefcase and pull out wads of cash to toss to players after a victory.

ers linebacker from 1987-96, said the biggest payout he ever collected from a player-generated bonus fund was "\$500 or something like that for a big hit. ... It was enough to go on a good date."

But Smith said that as far as he knew, Williams never contrib-

The NFL absolved Saints owner Tom Benson of blame, manager Mickey Loomis and head coach Sean Payton knew about the team's program. A Saints official told The Associated Press on Monday that Benson is "110 percent behind

"This isn't all that much different, other than that it involves a little more pain and suffering."

"Every team had their deal,"

Al Smith, a Houston Oil-

His position coach for his final three seasons? Williams. uted money to the Oilers' pool.

but determined that general

play a skill position in the NFL,

like New Orleans quarterback

Drew Brees, or receivers Wes

It also pays to be a kicker,

as five placekickers and one

punter were given franchise

tags, protecting their current

teams from losing them with-

The NFL's deadline for ap-

plying the tags was Monday

afternoon, and a late flurry saw

10 players added to the list. In

Only Brees, the 2011 AP

Offensive Player of the Year,

was made an exclusive fran-

chise player, meaning he is

not free to sign with another

team. The Saints will con-

tinue negotiations on a long-

term contract for the record-

But Brees is in line to earn

well over the \$14.4 million

base salary for a non-exclusive

tag because his 2012 salary

will be based on the average of

the five highest-paid players at

the position as of April 20. For

players given the non-exclu-

sive tag, the new salary is based

on the five highest-paid players

Naturally, the average salary

for quarterbacks increases ev-

at their position in 2011.

setting quarterback.

all, 21 players were tagged.

out compensation.

Welker and Dwayne Bowe.

Bowe by Kansas City. Welker, who led the league with 122 receptions, and Bowe will earn about \$9.5 million in 2012 if they don't reach new, longer

football player for our team and has been a vital component to our offense and special teams since we traded for him in 2007," the Patriots said in a statement. "Utilizing the franchise designation allows both sides more time to try to reach an agreement, which is the goal. Wes remains a contractual priority and we are hopeful that he will remain a Patriot for years to come."

Titans safety Michael Griffin, Cowboys linebacker Anthony Spencer, Lions defensive end Cliff Avril, Colts defensive end Robert Mathis, and several kickers: Giants punter Steve Weatherford, Denver placekicker Matt Prater. Tampa Bay placekicker Connor Barth, and Jacksonville cussions and more can be done now to help retired players deal with mental and physical problems they attribute to their days in the NFL.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello has discussed bounties in the context of the league's "responsibility to protect player safety and the integrity of the game."

While Gabe Feldman, a law professor and director of the Tulane Sports Law Program, said there isn't really a direct legal connection between the lawsuits and the NFL's handling of the bounty issue.

"But certainly from a league image—league perception perspective, it's connected," Feldman said. "It gets to what reasonable steps the league took, or has taken, to prevent unnecessary injury, and what knowledge the league has about risks of injury."

Feldman doesn't expect any criminal or civil legal action specifically tied to the bounty system, whether criminal (law enforcement authorities pursuing cases against someone involved in cash-for-hits plans) or civil (players who were injured by hits that earned bonus pay).

"They're difficult cases to bring, because it's hard to prove the injury was caused by a tackle with specific intent to injure, rather than a regular tackle," Feldman explained. "We all know injuries are a part of football. There can't be legal liability anytime there is an injury. Otherwise, you can't have football.'

### Welker, Bowe get franchise tags **NEW YORK** (AP)—It pays to

The other 20 players could move to new teams, but compensation would be two firstround draft choices.

his guys," and that the bond

among the owner, GM and

coach "could not be stronger."

The official spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because the

Punishment for the Saints

"I know it's going to be

pretty severe. Commissioner

Goodell is going to have to do

something to set an example,"

former NFL player and head

coach Herm Edwards said. "But

I don't think anybody should

lose a job over this, by any

Hall of Fame tailback Tony

Dorsett, who, like Turley, is a

former player suing the NFL

and its teams, wonders what

"I think a little bit too much

is being made out of it, person-

ally," Dorsett said. "If it was

me, and I'm a defensive player, and I'm playing against the Dal-

las Cowboys, and Tony Dorsett

happens to be one of their best

players, it would be to our best

advantage to get him out of the

game. If it's within the rules of

tackling and contact, so be it.

I don't think it's that big of a

deal. ... They're not telling a

guy to mangle somebody or

kill somebody. It's: 'Get him

That said, Dorsett also be-

lieves it's important to make

sure players aren't allowed

back in games if they are hurt.

He and other ex-players say

more should have been done

in the past to warn about con-

out of the game."

stretch of the imagination."

all the fuss is about.

could include suspensions, fines

and taking away draft picks.

investigation is still ongoing.

All-Pro receiver Welker was tagged by New England and deals with their teams.

"Wes Welker is a remarkable

Also tagged Monday were

placekicker Josh Scobee.

The other placekickers tagged were Cleveland's Phil Dawson and Cincinnati's Mike Nugent last week.

Mathis agreed to a longterm deal minutes after he was tagged.

Also previously tagged were Ravens running back Ray Rice, Bears running back Matt Forte, Eagles receiver DeSean Jackson, 49ers safety Dashon Goldson, Redskins tight end Fred Davis, Cardinals defensive end Calais Campbell, Raiders safety Tyvon Branch, and Falcons cornerback Brent Grimes.

Free agency begins on March 13.

Houston signed star running back Arian Foster to a new five-year deal worth up to \$43.5 million, with \$20.75 million guaranteed. He'll make \$18 million next season, plus incentives.

Buffalo hung on to its top receiver, Stevie Johnson, who got a five-year. \$36.25 million contract extension.

"I want to do all I can to make sure and let them know they didn't make a mistake," Johnson said. "I want to make sure they look good. This is where I started, and I wanted to remain loyal to them."

# Love's 39 carries Wolves over Clippers



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Kevin Love had 39 points and 17 rebounds to carry the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 95-94 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday.

Darko Milicic had 13 points in a spot start for the injured Nikola Pekovic and Michael Beasley scored all nine of his points in the fourth quarter for the Wolves.

Blake Griffin had 26 points and 12 rebounds, but scored just four in the final period for the Clippers. Mo Williams scored 19 points for Los Angeles, which outrebounded Minnesota 52-43. Three of the Clippers' 14 losses this season have come to Minnesota.

### **Bucks 97, 76ers 93**

In Milwaukee, Beno Udrih hit a goahead jumper with just under a minute left as Milwaukee held off Philadelphia's late comeback.

Brandon Jennings had 33 points and Drew Gooden added 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who have been stuck in a funk for a little more than a month. Since beating the Miami Heat on Feb. 1, Milwaukee had lost 12 of its last 16 games coming into Monday night's game.

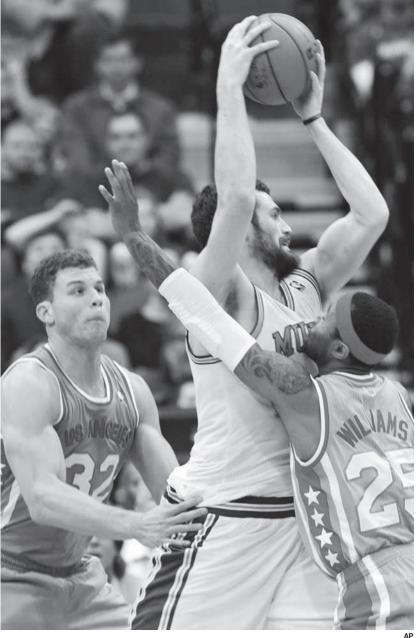
Lou Williams had 26 points for the 76ers, who were coming off a narrow home loss to Chicago on Sunday and have lost eight of 10.

#### Nuggets 119, Kings 116, OT

In Denver, Arron Afflalo hit three free throws with 0.6 seconds left in regulation and Ty Lawson made a 3-pointer with 4 seconds to go in overtime as Denver improved to 4-0 since the All-Star break.

Afflalo finished with a career-high 32 points for the Nuggets.

Lawson came up with the clutch basket for the second straight night, finishing with 16 points and 13 assists.



Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Love (42) hangs on to the ball as he is double-teamed by Los Angeles Clippers' Mo Williams, right, and Blake Griffin in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 5, 2012, in Minneapolis.

### **Bulls 92, Pacers 72**

Marcus Thornton and Tyreke Ev- points, teaming with Derrick Rose in ans each had 27 points for the Kings. a decisive third-quarter rally that sent Chicago to its seventh straight victory.

Rose added 13 points and nine as-

Deng had two in the third as the Bulls 11 rebounds. blew open a close game.

Joakim Noah had 17 rebounds to lead the Bulls to a dominating 60-32 edge on the boards. Paul George scored 21 points for Indiana, which had a six-game winning streak snapped. George Hill scored 17 points off the bench.

#### Thunder 95, Mavericks 91

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 24 points and Kevin Durant added 22 as Oklahoma City scored the final eight points to extend its home winning streak to 13 games.

Westbrook answered Dirk Nowitzki's fourth 3-pointer of the final period by hitting one of his own from the right wing to get the Thunder within 91-90 with 2:25 remaining, and Dallas didn't

Serge Ibaka hit two free throws with 46 seconds left to give Oklahoma City the lead, and Jason Terry missed two shots down the stretch for the Mavericks.

Nowitzki finished with 27 points but didn't touch the ball on a key possession when Dallas was down by two with 13 seconds left.

#### Magic 92, Raptors 88

In Toronto, Dwight Howard had 36 points and 13 rebounds, and Ryan Anderson added 19 points and 13 boards as Orlando won for the fifth time in seven games.

J.J. Redick scored 13 points, making a key 3 pointer in the final 10 seconds, and Jameer Nelson had 11 for the Magic, who have won nine of their last 12.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 for the Raptors, who have not won backto-back games since road wins over Phoenix and Utah on Jan. 24 and 25. Toronto has gone 6-13 since.

Jerryd Bayless scored 15 and James Johnson had 13 for Toronto, while Aaron Gray had 11 points and

### Jazz 109, Cavaliers 100

In Cleveland, Al Jefferson scored 25 points and Gordon Hayward added 23 as Utah handed Cleveland its sixth straight loss.

Utah snapped a six-game road losing streak with only its fourth victory away from home in 17 games.

Rookie Kyrie Irving led Cleveland with 22 points—21 in the second half. He scored 13 points in the third quarter.

#### Warriors 120, Wizards 100

In Washington, Monta Ellis scored 25 points and Klay Thompson added 18 to lead Golden State past Washington.

David Lee had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors, who had six players in double figures.

It was Golden State's highest-scoring game since beating Toronto 138-100 on March 25, 2011.

Nick Young scored 25 points, 15 in the fourth quarter, and John Wall had 20 points and 14 assists for Washington, which lost for the seventh time in eight games.

#### Trail Blazers 86, Hornets 74

In Portland, Oregon, Nicolas Batum scored 19 points as Portland snapped a three-game losing streak.

LaMarcus Aldridge, who had just two points and three rebounds in the first half, finished with 10 points and 11 boards the Trail Blazers, who led by as many as 26 points and got a morale-boosting victory before heading out on a seven-game, 12-night road trip. Aldridge did not play in the fourth quarter.

Marco Belinelli had 18 points for New Orleans, which has lost four of its last five games. At 9-29, the injury-depleted Hornets have the worst record in the Western Conference. Chris Kaman had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

### PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Pirates have

spent most of the last two decades grooming talented young players only to trade them away before they became too expensive to re-sign.

They weren't going to make the same mistake with All-Star centerfielder Andrew McCutchen.

The Pirates and McCutchen are closing in on a new contract that will keep the promising 25-year-old with the team through the 2017 season, with a club option for 2018.

The details are still being ironed out and McCutchen must pass a routine physical before it becomes official. A formal announcement is expected on Tuesday. The deal was first reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

General manager Neal Huntington declined comment and McCutchen did not play in Monday's spring training game against the Orioles. Steve Hammond, McCutchen's agent, credited both sides for making sure McCutchen will continue to be the cornerstone of Pittsburgh's rebuilding process.

"We were working hard at this," Hammond said. "It was something Pittsburgh wanted and Andrew wanted. We found common ground."

McCutchen hit .259 in 2011 and posted career highs in home runs (23)

### In Chicago, Luol Deng scored 20 sists, hitting three 3-pointers while Pirates closing in on deal with McCutchen

Game. Floating between leadoff and Central until late July.

and RBIs (89) while adding 23 stolen third in the lineup, McCutchen helped bases and making his first All-Star keep the Pirates in contention in the NL er Jose Tabata to a long-term deal last

Though Pittsburgh signed outfieldsummer, McCutchen and the Pirates

### Judge: NY Mets owe up to \$83M to Madoff trustee

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The New York Mets' owners must pay up to \$83 million to the trustee recovering money for Bernard Madoff investors, a judge said Monday, though he expressed doubt that the trustee will succeed in proving at a trial this month that he's entitled to as much as \$300 million more.

U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff issued his four-page ruling to narrow the subject of a March 19 trial in Manhattan that results from Trustee Irving Picard's effort to force the club's owners to pay as much as \$1 billion into a fund established to repay thousands of investors cheated of billions of dollars during Madoff's decades-long fraud.

Last year, Rakoff had ruled that the team's owners wouldn't owe more than \$386 million to other Madoff investors. He made it clear then that they would likely owe up to \$83 million but said the trustee must prove that the Mets' owners "willfully blinded" themselves to Madoff's fraud to get more.

His ruling Monday determined that

the exact amount up to \$83 million won't be left to the jury but will be decided by him in a future written decision, likely after he hears more from lawyers on both sides.

Rakoff rejected a request by lawyers for the Mets' owners to say Picard wasn't entitled to more money, a ruling that would have eliminated the need for the trial.

But he said he "remains skeptical that the trustee can ultimately rebut the defendants' showing of good faith."

He said he was concerned that much of the evidence offered by both sides in court papers so far would not be admissible at trial.

"Conclusions are no substitute for facts, and too much of what the parties characterized as bombshells proved to be nothing but bombast," he wrote.

Amanda Remus, a spokeswoman for Picard, said the trustee and his lawyers were aware of Rakoff's order and were reviewing it.

Sterling Partners, a business entity

that includes the Mets' owners, said in a statement: "We are preparing for trial. We look forward to demonstrating that we were not willfully blind to the Madoff fraud."

The trustee previously sued the Mets' owners, saying they had to know Madoff was acting illegally. Lawyers for the Mets' owners have repeatedly said that their clients had no idea Madoff wasn't investing their money as he said he was.

Nearly 5,000 investors were deceived in the fraud by the former NAS-DAQ chairman, who told them their \$20 billion investment had grown to \$68 billion by November 2008. Weeks later, he revealed his fraud, confessing that only several hundred million dollars were left.

In his lawsuit, Picard said the Mets' owners received \$83.3 million in fictitious profits and \$301 million in principal in the two years before a bankruptcy filing was made regarding the Madoff assets.

appeared to be far apart on what a new contract would look like. Hammond said McCutchen wanted to wait until he played at least two full seasons before getting serious about

"There was some risk in that," Hammond said. "We were willing to take that on and we did."

McCutchen's new deal is similar to the contract Cincinnati outfielder Jay Bruce and Arizona outfielder Justin Upton agreed to at similar points in their respective careers. Both players had two-plus seasons in the majors at the time the deals were signed. Once McCutchen reached that level of service following the 2011 season, he felt he had the right framework in which to make a deal.

"It was a better opportunity to look at those players and compare ourselves to them," Hammond said. "It worked out."

McCutchen's speed has made him one of baseball's best defensive centerfielders and his charismatic smile and trademark dreadlocks have made him one of Pittsburgh's most popular players.

The Pirates drafted McCutchen with the 11th overall pick in the 2005 amateur draft. He made his major league debut in 2009 and is a career .276 hitter. He is hitless in three plate appearances so far this spring.

# Q hands SCS third straight loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



OO Rent A Car exploded for 32 points in the sec-

ond period en route to a 90-86 victory over SCS Heavy Equipment Rental in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketbal Court.

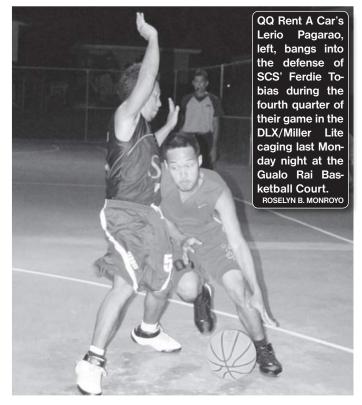
The win was the second in five games for QQ, while the loss was third in a row for SCS, which tried to recover in the fourth period after trailing by as much as 23 points, but fell short.

QQ was only ahead by a deuce after the opening quarter, 19-17, when Elgene Mangali anchored the team's breakaway in the second frame with his hot 3-point shooting. Mangali canned three of QQ's four triples in the second canto and had 14 in that quarter alone to put the team on top by 19 at the break, 51-32.

SCS trailed early, as it played with a depleted crew anew, missing Manolo Manalo and Jack Lizama. Manalo scored 30 points in their loss to Andhok's Grille last Saturday, while Lizama also contributed double figures in their first three wins before missing SCS' last three games.

Jessie Mina returned to action after a two-game absence, but his 23-point production was not enough to bail SCS out. Leo Galarse came to play only in the second half, but his eight markers failed to lift SCS in the final 20 minutes of play.

SCS cut the lead to single digits in the fourth period, as QQ



### BAREFOOT

From Page 28

Running barefoot is Jang's trademark and he admitted he runs faster without a pair of shoes. Last year, he completed the uphill climb to the rough road en route toward Mt. Tapochao barefoot, too.

Joining Jang and company in the top spot (for each age

group) in the marathon were women's 15 to 19's Meilishia Luo (4:16:42), 20 to 29's Karin Yoshida (3:55:36), the CNMI and 30 to 39's Karrie Fisher (3:49:59), 40 to 49's Marko Mori (4:07:21), 50 to 59's Yukiko Ishimaru (4:15:10), and

The full marathon had runners leaving Micro Beach for Banzai Cliff. They then headed to Pacific Islands Club

over 60's Kyoko Sato (5:05:38).

through Beach Road and back to Micro Beach.

In the ultra marathon (50K), Japan's Tomoya Mizukami of the 30 to 39 age group had the fastest time among the age winners in the men's division with his 4:56:28. Other age group winners were Toshikatsu Nomura (5:22:51/20 to 29)), Eiji Seumatu (5:12:13/40 to 49), Hiroyuki Kato (5:12:00/50 to 59), and the CNMI's Pedro Vilaga

(5:52:19/over 60).

In the women's division, four were named age group winners; Tomoya Okuyama (5:54:13/20 29), Bernadette Schule (6:56:38/30 to 39), Mayuko Shimada (6:08:08/40 to 49), and Samoti Moki (6:11:34/50 to 59).

The ultra marathon had the same course, but runners went up to Capital Hill first (Mt. Tapochao road turn) before heading down to PIC.

SAIPAL From Page 28

double. Familia only responded with a run in the bottom frame.

Saipal then added three more runs in the sixth inning before containing Familia to just two runs in the final stand.

### Check It Out 20, Rookies O

Check It Out was held to just one run in the opening frame, but then exploded with 10 runs in the second inning followed up with nine more in the third inning for the swift win.

Check It Out cranked out eight hits in the second inning that was capitalized with a three-run inside-the-park homer by Hermina Kelley. Teammate Janet Jones bagged a two-RBI

single earlier in the frame.

Check It Out then hammered seven more hits in the third inning that set up a three-run homer by Minami Tadukamo and an RBI triple by Jovie Omar.

The Rookies were stuffed with just two hits in the game and ended up one person short of batting through its lineup before succumbing to the 20-run rule concession.

Check It Out's Tadukamo batted 3-for-3 with a homer, three RBIs, and two runs. Jones swung 3-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs, while Omar went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

### **WEDNESDAY** Familia 21, Managaha 19

Managaha briefly tied it at 9-all in the top of the third inning, but Familia trotted forward, 15-9, in

the bottom frame off a three-run homer, an error, and a two-RBI base hit.

Managaha fired back again in the fourth, but Familia managed a 16-15 edge thanks to a double.

Managaha tied it up in the fifth and then skipped ahead, 19-16, in the sixth inning from a three-run blast, but Familia had the last word at the end of regulation and took the match after a three-run walk-off homer.

### Natibu 15, Six Pack 4

Natibu doubled up Six Pack, 6-3, after three innings and thundered ahead, 14-3, in the fourth

Natibu worked around the run needed for an early decision in the top of the fifth inning when Ken Kalen doubled home a runner and its defense held strong in the final stand for a clean mercy rule victory.

### Warriors 10, Saipal 7

The Warriors enjoyed a 5-1 cushion after holding Saipal scoreless in the first three innings.

The Warriors did all of its damage in the opening frame off five hits and a sacrifice fly.

The Warriors then pressed ahead, 7-1, in the top of the fourth inning from a pair of base RBI base rips and then added three more runs to start the sixth, a solo shot, and some early errors.

Saipal's Greg Iskawa jacked a grand slam in the bottom frame in an effort to turn things around, but the Warriors pulled it together out in the field to secure the win. The Warriors whipped around a wicked 4-5-2-3 double play to end the match.

feated Elna Curate and Shirley

The Berks Blazers and AON also posted separate wins last Friday with the former nailing two victories and the latter hav-

pera and Lani Bartolome swept Tolentino and Cristy Villaflor in the women's A, 21-15, 21-16, while Ferdie Arago and Gerry Balarao won over Noli Santos and Edwin Montoya, 21-17, 21-15. Santos and Belialba gave AON its lone win last weekend as they outclassed Mike Cruz and let its guard down a bit, but the latter still prevailed with Lerio Pagarao and Wowie Abuel making rally-halting baskets.

Mangali top-scored for QQ with 22, while Pagarao and Abuel added 17 and 14, respectively. QQ outgunned SCS from dowtown, hitting nine treys against the latter's two.

#### Shirley's 63, Hite Beer 51

In the first game of the night, Shirley's Coffee Shop finally made it to the win column after losing its first three games, following a 12-point victory over Hite Beer/Blue Haus.

Shirley's notched the win despite playing with only six players. It held Hite Beer to five points in the opening canto to take control of the game and never looked back from thereon.

Hite made only two field goals in the first period off Zack Babauta's triple—his lone basket in the game—and Mike Palacios' jumper.

Marvin Rabauliman and Bruce Berline teamed up for Shirley's in the opening canto with the former scoring seven and the latter chipping in six

for the team's early double-digit lead, 16-5.

Rabauliman continued to make life difficult for Hite and drew help from Jerome Norita, who finished with 13 points. Rabauliman had a game-high 19 markers. Ivan Devero was the lone double-figure scorer for Hite with 15.

#### **First Game**

Shirley's Coffee Shop 63 -Rabauliman 19, Norita 14, Petersberg 9, Berline 8, Barrios 6, Mungcal 6.

Hite Beer/Blue Haus 51 -Devero 15, Lauron 7, Tenorio 7, Palacios 6, Lisua 5, Diaz 4, Babauta 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-5, 27-17, 41-32, 63-51.

#### **Second Game**

QQ Rent A Car 90 - Mangali 22, Pagarao 17, Abuel 14, Camacho 9, Mateo 7, Cruz 6, Paraiso 6, Sablan 1, Montes 2, Sison 1.

SCS H.E. Rental 86 – Mina 23, Tobias 16, Tamayo 12, Pantaleon 11, Galarse 8, Ritual 6, Diaz 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 51-32, 75-58, 90-86.

### GCA

From Page 28

ganization. The 18-year-old Salas also suits up for the Eagles' varsity basketball team.

"I am very thankful to NMA-SA and FISU for this rare opportunity. I am looking forward to meeting fellow studentathletes in Taipei and learning more about school sports," Salas said in a phone interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

"I am excited to represent the CNMI and I am sure we will gain a lot of knowledge from the Forum. Whatever things we learn from this experience, we would be willing to share them to our fellow student-athletes," Batallones said in a separate phone interview with Saipan Tribune last night.

The FISU Forum will run from March 26 to 31 at the Taipei Physical Education College with "University Sport a Platform for Sustainable Development" as its theme this year. The forum is held every two-years and gathers represen-

tatives from over 100 members of FISU (Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire), the world governing body of national university sports federations and organizes the Winter and Summer Universiades in uneven years and the World University Championships in even years.

Salas and Batallones are the second and third representatives of the CNMI to the biennial event. Runner and triathlete Matthew Mancao was the Commonwealth's first delegate to the Forum, having attended the seminar in Vigo, Spain in June 2010.

Besides its main theme, this year's FISU Forum also listed four sub-topics: University sport as fertile ground for leadership development; University Sport, a platform for change and for women's engagement; sportsmanship as a platform for lifelong development; and strategic planning for "eco-friendly" university sport.

Salas and Batallones will leave Saipan for Taipei on March 25 and will return on April 1.

### TAGA

From Page 28

against AON's Bebilyn Harris and Maggie Chavez after prevailing in the last two games, 21-9, 21-12.

In the tough men's A doubles, the young guns Galvez and Espana downed the veteran duo of Dick Guinto and Mario Diola, 21-6, 21-15. Also claiming a straight game win for Taga were Camacho and Peteru, who defeated AON's Celso Agui and Ramil Estrellano in the men's C doubles, 21-18, 23-21.

All divisions in this year's Tan Holdings tournament will have a round-robin format in the teams will advance to the crossover semifinals.

Meanwhile, Golden Racquet and Saipan Badminton Club also notched four wins in last Friday's games.

In the men's B division, SBC's J.O. Son and Y.S. Kim swept Golden Racquet's Eydie Uy and Jordan Pangelinan, 21-12, 21-12, whole Joel Ortega and S.P. Park needed three games to thwart Panapa and Camacho in the men's C game, 12-21, 21-17, 21-18. SBC's two other wins last Friday came off sweeps with Gary Bandoja and Oh Im Bog topping Shirley's Robert Reyes and Chris Hilario in the men's B doubles, 21-17,

elimination and only the Top 4 21-11, and So Young Lee and In Seok Heo beating Juneh Padua and Emily Vargas, 21-0 (forfeit), 21-7.

For Golden Racquets, the club grabbed two wins each via sweep and extended matches. Narlou Achas and Lito Mendoza had two of those four triumphs, as they first topped Ferdie Santos and Ramir Belialba in two games in the men's C, 21-11, 21-16, and then outclassed SBC's Son Jae Ik and Kim Yong Jaem 21-18, 13-21, 21-17. Achas also played in the men's B with Edwin Maratas and they won over Roger Vales and Jojo Savellano, 21-14, 8-21, 21-19. In the women's B, Cheng Saturno and Anna Alvarez deKim, 21-8, 21-17.

ing only one.

The Blazers' Lucelle Lam-Melvin Capalad, 21-13, 21-9.

Results of Saturday and Sunday games will be released before the week ends.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### **NBA STANDINGS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division** Pct GB

22 17 .564 — 19 17 .528 1 1/2 Boston 18 19 .486 3 12 26 .316 9 1/2 New York New Jersey 12 26 .316 9 1/2 Toronto Southeast Division Miami 28 9

25 14 .641 4

.595 6 .216 20

#### Atlanta Washington 29 Charlotte 31 .114 23 **Central Division**

Orlando

32 8 .800 -Chicago Indiana Milwaukee 23 13 .639 7 15 23 .395 16 Cleveland 13 23 .361

### **WESTERN CONFERENCE**

Southwest Division
San Antonio 25 12 25 12 .676 **—** 22 15 .595 3 Memphis

#### **Northwest Division** Oklahoma City 30 8 .789 — Denver 22 17 .564 8 1/2

L.A. Lakers

20 19 .513 19 19 .500 10 1/2 11 Portland Utah 18 19 .486 11 1/2 **Pacific Division** 

23 14 .622

22 14 .611 1/2 17 20 .459 6 L.A. Clippers Golden State 15 20 .429 7 12 26 .316 11 1/2

### Yesterday's Games

Utah 109, Cleveland 100 Orlando 92, Toronto 88 Golden State 120, Washington 100 Chicago 92, Indiana 72 Oklahoma City 95, Dallas 91 Minnesota 95, L.A. Clippers 94 Milwaukee 97, Philadelphia 93 Denver 119, Sacramento 116, OT

### BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portland 86, New Orleans 74

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012 27

# CNMI vs Japan Soccer College

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of the CNMI Team acknowledge the crowd after their 2-1 win over Japan Soccer College in an exhibition game late last month at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Japan Soccer College players in a light moment after a tight game against the CNMI.



The CNMI's Arkie Reusora, left, collides against a Japan Soccer College defender.



The CNMI's Ruselle Zapanta, right, kicks the ball.



The CNMI's Dakota Hall, left, goes for a header.



The CNMI's Peter Loken tries to pull away from his defenders.



Raphael Zapanta has possession and is chased by a Japan Soccer College defender.



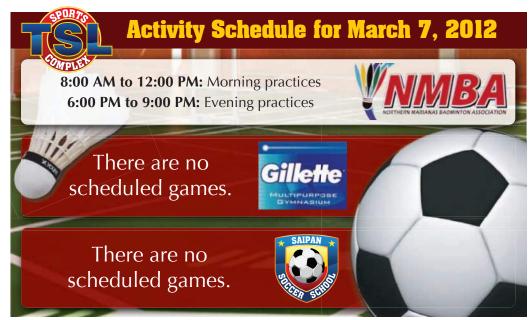
The CNMI's Trey Dunn, right, in action against a Japan Soccer College striker.



The CNMI's Dan Wollack uses his body to stop the ball.



The CNMI's Steve McKagan makes a throw-in.





**28** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Barefoot runner completes marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

hile a Japanese runner hoisted his shoes when he cut the tape of the 7th Saipan Marathon, Saipan's Chang Whan Jang had a better finish in last Saturday's race—running and complet-

ing the 42.195K event barefoot.



Jang crossed the finish line at the 3:49:55 mark to top the men's 60-and-above division and become the only runner from the CNMI to place

first (men's age group) in the second longest race of the weekend. Japan's Takeshi Kawamoto (3:57:11), Yosuke Ikeno (3:40:35), and Yuji Takahashi (3:53:21) ruled the 40 to 49, 30 to 39, and 50 to 59 division, while China's Wie Liu (3:28:51) won the 20 to 29 age group.

"I am okay, there's nothing to worry about," said Jang when asked how his feet were after the race under the scorching sun.

See BAREFOOT on Page 26

### Saipal, Familia split games



Check It Out's Minami Tadukamo takes a big swing in Monday's Chamolinian Softball 2012 Budweiser Softball League women's division match against the Rookies at the Capitol Hill Ballfield

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com

Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball

League continued earlier this



Saipal and Familia punched a win and a loss on their cards SOFTBALL LEAGUE as the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2012 week at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Saipal defeated Familia, 15-9, in the men's division and Check It Out torched the Rookies, 20-0, in three innings in the women's matchup last Monday, while back on Wednesday, Familia clipped Managaha, 21-19; Natibu downed Six Pack, 15-4; and the Warriors triumphed

over Saipal, 10-7.

### **MONDAY** Saipan 15, Familia 9

Saipal trailed, 5-6, after four innings when the top of its lineup gashed Familia with seven runs to start the fifth off a pair of two-run home runs and an RBI See SAIPAL on Page 26

### GCA players off to FISU Forum

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Grace Christian Academy's Angelo Salas and Aira Batallones

will be leaving FISU Saipan later this month to represent the CNMI in the 11th FISU Forum in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White announced the selection of the two GCA students during the monthly NMASA meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium

W e w o u l d like to congratulate Angelo Salas and Aira Batallones for being



named CNMI representatives to the FISU Forum in Taipei. I wish them good luck and may

they represent the CNMI well and share what they will learn from the Forum to their fellow student-athletes," White said.

Salas and Batallones both



Sports Association and Marianas Interscholastic Sports Or-See GCA on Page 26

varsity volleyball teams that compete in the Coalition of

play for

GCA's

Private School



### Taga bets recover in badminton tourney



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Taga's Andreau Galvez makes a return during his and Rodwealth Espana's game against Shirley's Sam Jones and Glen Buultjens in the Tan Holdings tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Taga Badminton Club play-

back from a slow start in the 2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition, winning four games at the beginning of Week 2.

Delivering victories for Taga last Friday were the tandems of Merlie Tolentino and Loyda Ito, Andreau Galvez and Rodwealth Espana, Luis Camacho and Panapa Peteru, and Rose Lazaro and Irish Pagarao.

Tolentino and Ito are playing in the women's B doubles and swept Saipan Badminton Club's Alma Ortega and Brianna Kim, 21-17, 21-11. In the women's C division, Lazaro and Pagarao lost the opening game via forfeiture, 0-21, but stole the win

See GCA on Page 26